

THE ALEXANDRA · EILDON · MARYSVILLE

Standard

INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE YARCK, GOBUR, TAGGERTY, THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS

P.O Box 5, Alexandra, 3714. Ph: (03) 5772 1002; Fax: (03) 5772 1603; Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au Wednesday, July 30, 2025 \$2.00 inc. GST

150 years of local reporting with integrity

murrindindibusiness.com.au

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

U3A hold their AGM



Page 5

ASC class of '84 reunion



Pages 6-7

Primary students plant trees



Page 20

Weekend sport



Pages 21-24

Big Freeze fundraiser at Alexandra Secondary College

ON a cold winter's day, spirits were high at Alexandra Secondary College (ASC) as students gathered to watch the staff plunge into the icy waters for a good cause, combatting Motor Neurone Disease (MND).

On Friday, July 25, an inflatable slide was installed at the school for the event. In the week prior, students donated funds to their nominated teacher's tally, with each teacher needing to reach

\$40. Twenty staff members put their names down. The teachers who reached the target, slid down in fun costumes before taking the plunge into the icy water.

The event was organised by ASC's student representative council and raised \$1184, with more funds yet to raise from the upcoming free dress day.



Alexandra Secondary College staff members dressed up to take the plunge into icy waters for the Big Freeze fundraiser. More images on page 20 of this edition. -AR

Two Murrindindi organisations receive Stronger Communities grant funding

MEMBER for Indi Helen Haines recently announced \$150,000 in grant funding for community organisations as part of the Stronger Communities Program.

Fourteen successful organisations were awarded between \$5000 and \$18,855 to undertake projects across communities in Indi. These grants will support organisations to maintain and improve infrastructure and facilities and enable groups to purchase much-needed equipment.

"Hard-working community groups exist across every corner of Indi, and it is a privilege to recognise this through the Stronger Community grants," Dr Haines said.

The Alexandra Timber Tramway and Museum received \$15,000 to build a new

disabled access carriage, improving access for all members of the community.

The Dame Pattie Menzies Centre will use the \$10,000 they received to install new audiovisual equipment to improve access to digital services and connectivity for community members, including aged persons and environmental community groups.

"From Alexandra and Mansfield right across to Corryong and Wodonga, groups in Indi are coming up with fabulous initiatives and supporting our communities," Dr Haines said.

"These projects are occurring in shared spaces across our communities, in the community halls, recreation reserves, and sporting facilities. It is wonderful to know

the benefits of these projects will extend right across our communities.

"The number of quality projects we reviewed is a testament of the incredible projects happening right across Indi.

"Congratulations to everyone who was successful in this round of funding. I am looking forward to seeing your fabulous initiatives progress."

Sixty-two expressions of interest were received for the program across Indi, with each assessed by a community panel on their ability to encourage and support participation in local projects, increase community participation and contribute to vibrant and viable communities.

Bendigo confirms agency closures in Alexandra and Marysville

BENDIGO Bank has released a statement following concerns about the upcoming closures of the Alexandra agency. It appears that the Marysville agency will be impacted as well.

The statement read, "Following a review of evolving customer preferences, a reduction in business activity and an increase in costs and compliance obligations, Bendigo Bank's agency model will be retired.

"As a result, a number of Bendigo Bank agencies throughout the central Victoria region will be closing permanently. The bank is in the process of communicating this change to customers and apologises for any inconvenience."

Alexandra Agency will be closing on Wednesday, October 22 and the Marysville Agency will close on Friday, October 24.

The statement continued, "Bendigo Bank is proud of its regional heritage and has Australia's second largest regional branch network. Bendigo Bank is committed to its physical network and operates more branches per customer than any other bank in Australia.

"Established more than 30 years ago, Bendigo Bank's agency network enabled the bank to offer limited banking services via third party businesses in areas where there was not enough demand to sustain a branch.

"To preserve its ability to continue delivering for its customers and communities, the bank must balance its physical network with the need to continue investing in the changing preferences of our 2.7 million customers."

Customers have been advised that they do not need to take any action as there will be no impact to how their accounts operate, and are reminded that Bank@Post via Australia Post remains available, as well as internet banking, ATMs, the mobile app, and the Bendigo branches with the nearest being located in Yea, Kinglake, Mansfield or Upwey.

The agency closures are not expected to impact Community Bank ATMs in the region. No new ATMs were announced.

The branches closing in October in Victoria are in Welshpool, St Arnaud, Wedderburn, Wycheproof, Clunes, Alexandra, Boort, Myrtleford and Marysville. Around the country, Bendigo has announced the closure of a total of 28 agencies, all in October.

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Yea & District Memorial Hospital
5736 0400

In an emergency dial
000

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

CONTACT DETAILS

CLASSIFIEDS AND COMMERCIAL PRINTING
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

MANAGER AND ACCOUNTS Karen Morrison
manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au
accounts@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ADVERTISING - Jo
1sales@alexandranewspapers.com.au

TRADES and ONLINE DIRECTORY - Mary
trades@alexandranewspapers.com.au

EDITOR Anne Richey
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au
(Bailey) journalist@alexandranewspapers.com.au
(Milly) reporter@alexandranewspapers.com.au

SPORTS
sports@alexandranewspapers.com.au

43 Grant Street - PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714
Telephone: 5772 1002 Fax: 5772 1603
Hours: 9am-5pm Monday-Friday

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHERS

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd 43 Grant Street, Alexandra
Victoria 3714. Material published in this edition is subject
to copyright provisions, and cannot be used without the
company's permission. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts
no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such
material. Printed by North East Media Wangaratta. Print Post
Approved - PP 100000292

Independently owned and operated with no association
with any other media outlet in the Murrindindi Shire.

Letters to the Editor

Blackberries

BLACKBERRY growth is becoming a serious
problem in the Buxton Cathedral corridor and
beyond, south towards Marysville Narbethong
and north beyond Taggerty.

THUMBS UP
THUMBS DOWN

THUMBS UP: A big thank you to
the Alexandra Standard for hosting
the 'It's Our Treat' competition. My
hubby and I had a lovely meal at the
Pavilion restaurant in Marysville.

THUMBS UP: To Brooke Carter
who went above and beyond her
normal duties on Tuesday, July 22.
The day was made perfect and
much appreciated by all. Thank you
Brooke.

THUMBS DOWN: To the Murrindindi
Shire Council for not restoring the
much loved and colourful planter
boxes to Grant Street, leaving
the main street looking bleak and
devoid of the community care they
displayed.

THUMBS DOWN: Bendigo Bank
quitting Alexandra. Not a community
bank after all. Just another money-
grubbing big bank. Disgraceful.

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down is a reader's
contribution section of Alexandra Newspapers.
Send your Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down to
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Contributions will be edited and/or published
at the Editor's discretion. We request that this
section not be used as a slander attack on
persons, businesses or property

Blackberry patches can become safe havens
for pests like rabbits, feral cats and Blackbirds
to name a few. They deprive stock from being
able to feed on places with good healthy
soil or stop native plants, birds and animals
of habitat.

Cathedral Landcare Group have employed
two project officers recently to focus on pest
weeds and pest animals. If you would like
help, support or consulting advice please call
0457 086 711.

There is never a bad time in the year to
begin the 18 month procedure to rid your land
or neighbouring nature strip of blackberry
thoroughly, so why don't you give that number
a call or contact The Cathedral Landcare
Group by emailing ugln.projects@ugln.net
or cathedrallandcare@gmail.com

Michael Wasley, Buxton

Alexandra Senior Citizen Club report

by honorary secretary Mike Jennings

THE Alexandra and District Senior Citizens Club had a busy week with two tables of bridge players on Wednesday afternoon. On Thursday there was a good turnout for the Christmas in July lunch at the Rubicon Hotel in Thornton. Thank you to the ladies who brought along chocolates and cakes to add to the tasty fare served by the hotel. Thank you too, Jan Ferris, for bringing along a wall clock for the tearoom.

Key Worker
Housing yet to
be unlocked

MURRINDINDI Shire Council was asked
to comment on the Eildon Key Worker
Housing decision deferral at last week's
council meeting, along with any other
associated matters.

They responded, "Officers recommended
to council to defer consideration of four
reports all relating to the Eildon Key
Worker project. The recommendation to
defer was as a result of an advertising
error with the signs which has now
been rectified.

"While the minimum requirement in
the planning scheme is to notify adjoining
landowners, council often takes extra steps
to advertise more broadly. In this case,
there was an error with the original signage
on site. New signs have been installed and
feedback on the planning applications
has reopened for a further 14 days from
July 23.

"Council is committed to making sure
the process is open, transparent, and gives
everyone the chance to have a voice.
All submissions received to date will
be considered."

Friday's social meeting went quickly with front row ladies, Bev, Steph and June going home with chocolate.

This Friday morning, the new committee meet up to plan future activities and after lunch there is a business meeting where members can hear the committee deliberations. Bring your singing voices as the plan is to end the meeting gathered around the piano.

The club welcomes new members, so if you feel like a chat, a cuppa and a game of 500 or UNO come along on a Friday afternoon to the Bayley Street clubroom. Meanwhile, stay safe and keep smiling.

COMMUNITY DIARY

Alexandra District Health
5772 0900

Non-emergency police assistance
131 444

EMERGENCY 000

Local Radio Frequency

UGFM 106.9 Alexandra / Lake Eildon

UGFM 98.5 Marysville / Lake Mountain

MONTHLY COMMUNITY GROUPS

WEEKLY

Tue Women's Walk @ 7am @Embassy of Ideas

Sun Alex & Dist Dog Obedience, training. Ph 0456 583 611

Fri Man Walk @ 7am meet at RSL Hall

Fri Communita 10am-12pm @ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

MONTHLY

1st Wed Alexandra Lions dinner meet, Corner Hotel 0427 595 318

1st Thur Murrindindi Men 6-8pm@ Embassy of Ideas 0422 225 801

1st Sun Crop/Produce swap 10.30am-noon @ Embassy of Ideas

2nd Tue Alexandra District Garden Society Meeting Ph 5772 2285

2nd Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

3rd Wed Alex Lions business meeting, rear RSL hall 0427 595 318

3rd Thu Alexandra Ladies Probud 10am RSL Ph 0428 976 252

3rd Thu Community Potluck dinner 6-8pm @ Embassy of Ideas

3rd Sun Alexandra RSL Ph 0409 950 913

4th Wed Molesworth Patchwork & Craft, Molesworth Hall 10am-4pm.

4th Thu Alexandra Redgate CWA Meeting 1pm, Ph 0402 804 517

Last Fri Carers Group 10am Grant Street Grocer. 0418 402 455

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

For a \$10 annual fee for one line, your club or organisation's
regular meeting dates will be listed each week. Not only is this
a reminder to your regular members but also a good source of
what groups are available in the community, when they meet
and a contact phone number.

Weekly Weather

July 30 - August 5, 2025

Temperatures may be subject to change from date of publication

Alexandra

Yea

DAY LOW HIGH

Wednesday 3 13

Thursday 2 14

Friday 2 13

Saturday 2 14

Sunday 5 15

Monday 7 14

Tuesday 5 13

DAY LOW HIGH

Wednesday 3 13

Thursday 3 15

Friday 3 13

Saturday 2 15

Sunday 5 15

Monday 7 14

Tuesday 4 13

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

can be submitted via email to
editorial@alexandranewspapers.com.au or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au
or by mail to Alexandra Newspapers
PO Box 5, Alexandra 3714.

Letters **must be 300 words or less.** We will
not publish defamatory letters, or content
which is offensive, threatening or containing
personal attacks. Submitted letters may be
edited before going to print.

All letters must contain writers name,
address and contact number. (not necessarily
for publication). Letters without these details
supplied cannot not be published. Deadline
for Letters to the Editor is 9am Monday.

Like us on
Facebook

Standard

The Yea Chronicle

RIVER HEIGHTS FOR THE GOULBURN CATCHMENT				
STATION NAME	TIME	HEIGHT	TENDENCY	FLOOD CLASS
Goulburn R at Lake Eildon (TW)	9.00am Mon	1.19	steady	Below Flood Level
Rubicon River at Rubicon	9.00am Mon	0.82	steady	
Acheron River at Taggerty	9.00am Mon	1.12	steady	Below Flood Level
Home Creek at Yarek	9.21am Mon	0.51	steady	
Yea River at Devlins Bridge	7.22am Mon	0.70	steady	Below Flood Level
Murrindindi River Above Colwells	7.00am Mon	0.53	steady	
Yea R at Old Killingworth Rd	9.00am Mon	1.27	steady	
Goulburn River at Ghin Ghin	9.00am Mon	4.33	steady	
King Parrot Creek at Flowerdale	9.00am Mon	0.83	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Trawool	9.00am Mon	2.27	steady	Below Flood Level
Sunday Creek at Tallarook	9.00am Mon	0.53	steady	Below Flood Level
Goulburn River at Seymour	9.00am Mon	2.44	steady	Below Flood Level
Whiteheads Creek at Seymour	9.00am Mon	1.48	steady	

*ISSUED AT 09:39 AM AEST MONDAY 28 JULY 2025

DISTRICT RAINFALL	
Alexandra	49mm
Buxton.....	118mm
Eildon (AWS).....	45mm
Flowerdale.....	81mm
Jamieson.....	67mm
Kinglake.....	88mm
Lake Eildon.....	53mm
Mansfield.....	46mm
Taggerty	51mm
Yarek	55mm
Yea.....	39mm
Above details for 7 days to 9am Monday	
LAKE EILDON	
Height above sea level this week.....	276.02m
Capacity as at 9am Monday.....	56.6%
Metres below full supply.....	12.88m
Daily inflow	10000ML
Release.....	3000ML
Eildon Pondage (may be subject to rapid change).....	65%

THE ALEXANDRA EILDON MARYSVILLE

Standard

INCORPORATING THE ALEXANDRA TIMES - THE YARCK, GOBUR, TAGGERTY, THORNTON, AND ACHERON EXPRESS

DEADLINES

Real Estate Thursday 5pm

Trades & Services Thursday noon

Early General News Thursday 5pm

Classifieds Monday noon

Editorial Monday 9am

Sports Editorial Monday 10am

Letters to the Editor Monday 9am

Thumbsup/down Monday 10am

If you have any enquiries please do not hesitate
to contact the office on

5772 1002 or
reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

We thank you for your continued support

Council Plan 2025-29 adopted at July meeting

MURRINDINDI Shire Council officially adopted its *Council Plan 2025-29* at the scheduled meeting of council on Wednesday, July 23.

Shaped by input from more than 1000 community members, the plan outlines council's strategic direction for the next four years and focuses on delivering practical outcomes for the people of Murrindindi, guided by what matters most to them.

Alongside the plan is the refreshed *2035 Community Vision*, which outlines the community's aspirations for what Murrindindi Shire can become.

"Together, we are a vibrant rural community where everyone feels welcome and valued, young people see a future, every person is supported and empowered, and diversity is genuinely embraced," the community vision says.

"Our heritage and landscapes are celebrated, and our economy is thriving. We cherish all that makes this shire unique.

"Murrindindi is the destination of choice, to live, to visit, and to enjoy."

The council plan is structured around three strategic directions: A thriving and prosperous shire; healthy, inclusive and resilient communities; and trusted leadership and sustainable services.

Mayor Damien Gallagher said the plan is council's blueprint for action over the next four years, designed to advance the community toward its shared 2035 vision.

"This plan is a commitment to inclusion and follows one of the most comprehensive engagement programs council has ever undertaken," Cr Gallagher said.

"It's also about opportunity, from education and employment to health and wellbeing, we're unlocking pathways that empower individuals and strengthen our collective resilience. It's a bold and forward-thinking plan that balances growth with sustainability; tradition with progress.

"This is not just council's plan, it's the community's plan. We all have a role in bringing it to life, as residents, businesses, volunteers and community groups. I'd like to thank every community member and every council officer who contributed to this process. Their insights and passion have shaped a document that is not only strategic but deeply personal."

Cr Gallagher acknowledged the economic and structural challenges facing rural communities and the importance of shared decision-making.

"We know we're operating in a tough economic environment. That means making some difficult choices together. This plan helps guide those conversations, ensuring we stay focused on the priorities that matter most to our people, and continue advocating for a fair share of support from other levels of government.

"Most importantly, it gives us a clear and hopeful path forward, one that reflects our values and meets our ambitions with courage, clarity and care."

The *Council Plan 2025-2029* and *2035 Community Vision* will be available shortly to view online at murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Council/Corporate-Documents/Council-Plans

Printed copies will be available at council's Library and Customer Service Centres.

Planning for the future of Alexandra Community Leisure Centre

THROUGH joint funding, Murrindindi Shire Council and Alexandra Secondary College (ASC) have commenced early concept planning for potential upgrades to the Alexandra Community Leisure Centre. This planning process is an important first step in shaping a community-driven vision to guide future redevelopment.

The project will support council advocacy for state and commonwealth investment by identifying community needs. It will explore options to modernise the facility so it remains a safe, inclusive and accessible place where people of all

ages and abilities can stay active, healthy and connected.

Specialist consultants from Otium Planning have been engaged to support the project, drawing on their expertise in recreation planning and community infrastructure design. They have begun a detailed site assessment to inform the development of future design options.

The concept plan will explore upgrades that address ageing infrastructure and improve safety, meet current standards for access, parking and environmentally sustainable design, provide inclusive spaces such as gender-neutral change

rooms, respond to community demand for contemporary sport, fitness and recreation facilities, support the centre's ability to operate as an Emergency Relief Centre, and investigate operational models that increase public access beyond school use.

Community feedback will be a key part of the process and council are eager to hear about your experiences with the centre and how it could improve. Have your say by completing a feedback form at theloop.murrindindi.vic.gov.au/communitycentre by Sunday, August 24.

Community Wellbeing Portfolio Councillor Jodi Adams, said concept planning marks an exciting step forward for the local community.

"This is an exciting opportunity to reimagine a much-loved local facility so it can meet modern standards and future community needs.

"Community input will be vital in shaping our advocacy efforts. We want to ensure the leisure centre continues to serve as a welcoming, inclusive, and multi-purpose space that supports health, wellbeing and connectedness of our community."

For more information, visit The Loop or contact council on 5772 0333.



The Alexandra Community Leisure Centre. -S

Wild weather buffets Murrindindi Shire

HEAVY wind and rain buffeted all parts of Murrindindi Shire in the early days of last week, leading to power outages and weather damage.

Unit controller for the Alexandra SES, Trevor Evans, spoke about how the wind and rain affected the eastern side of Murrindindi Shire.

"We've been pretty lucky this week. It seemed very wet over around Strath Creek and those sort of places. Alexandra seemed to miss out a little bit," Trevor said.

"We had one tree down [last Tuesday] in the afternoon at the end of the deviation and there was another one down on Maintongoon Road.

There were also fallen trees on Buxton-Marysville Road, leading to a lengthy road closure.

But considering, so far we've been pretty fortunate. There were a couple of outages in Kinglake and those areas, but nothing locally."

Kinglake SES posted on Facebook last Tuesday detailing the response required from them after the extreme weather.

"Starting just before 7am this morning and going until approximately 2.30pm this afternoon, our crews have responded to 12 storm-related jobs, most trees over roads and driveways," they said.

"The work has been difficult in unforgiving conditions. Some members needed to have hot showers to warm up and feel their toes again, but they wouldn't have it any other way and approached every job today with smiles on their faces.

"Thank you to community members who have helped in whatever capacity."

Murrindindi Shire Councils Library e-Book service explained

PREVIOUSLY Murrindindi Shire Council had two platforms available for library customers to read e-books. The two platforms were Libby and BorrowBox.

The platform Libby is no longer available and Murrindindi Shire Council Library Service is proud to offer BorrowBox. This platform is a free and easy to use digital platform that gives the community access to a wide range of eBooks and audiobooks. BorrowBox offers a carefully curated, boutique collection that's perfect for readers and listeners of all ages and interests.

In relation to the Libby platform (OverDrive), Murrindindi Shire Council said, "While the Libby platform (OverDrive) is no longer available through our service, this change has allowed us to focus on delivering a high-quality digital experience

through BorrowBox without the significant cost of joining a new library consortium. Under the new model, the consortium required an additional \$16,000 per year for access to the platform. With only around 100 members currently using the service, the additional cost was not justified, particularly as we have another quality option available for our members through BorrowBox.

"Library membership is free, and with that comes free access to BorrowBox as our digital alternative. Our Library staff have been helping customers make the switch, and we're pleased to see many enjoying what BorrowBox has to offer. If you haven't tried it yet, now's the perfect time. Visit branches in Alexandra, Yea or Kinglake, or stop by the Mobile Library for help getting started. Our staff are here to support you every step of the way."

McCORMACK FUNERALS
Inc. BAMFORDS Murrindindi
21 Johnston Street, Alexandra

1800 080 909
Andrew, Robyn and Brooke

Murrindindi Chapel and Funeral Home
Caring & Professional 24 hour service, all areas

Obligation free appointments
Pre-paid, pre-arranged,
personalised funeral and memorial services

www.mccormackfunerals.com.au



having a celebration?
need invitations?



CALL NOW!

5772 1002

or email us on

reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Church Services

ANGLICAN

St Johns Alexandra

9am Eucharist each Sunday
Children welcome.
Rev Mario Hendricks -
Rectory 0435 953 777

CATHOLIC

Immaculate Conception Parish
Parish Administrator Fr Jose Mathew.
Presbytery 0468 810 871
St Matthews Eildon, Saturday 5pm
Alexandra, Sunday 8.45am
Sacred Heart Yea, Sunday 10.45am

UNITING CHURCH In Australia

St Andrews, Downey Street,
Alexandra
Worshipping, Welcoming
Sharing the transforming love of
Jesus. Services 10am each Sunday
Contact 5772 2362

OASIS COMMUNITY CHURCH

Loving God, Loving People,
Loving Life
118 Grant Street, Alexandra
Meeting every Sunday @ 10am

MOUNT CATHEDRAL COMMUNITY

BAPTIST CHURCH

37 Grant Street, Alexandra
Pastor Daniel Kriss
Services 10am every Sunday
Phone 0400 282 536
mccbc.com.au

THE VINE

A Christian community part of the Baptist
Union of Victoria
Sunday 4.30pm service
Kids program during school term
Meets at St Andrew's, 37 Downey Street,
Alexandra
Contact - 0438 642 559

Celebrating the start of NBN in Marysville



Locals gathered at MiRa in Marysville on Thursday, July 24, to celebrate the connection of the NBN in the town. Representatives from NBN were in attendance, along with Mayor Damien Gallagher and Councillor Sandice McAulay, as well as two internet providers keen to provide their services. -AR

Out & About

WHAT'S ON?

THE items in *Out and About* are sourced from our advertising and news stories. *Out and About* is not a free community listing diary. Not all items can be included and are placed at the discretion of *Alexandra Newspapers*.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30

Speak with council today, at an open community meeting in Yarck from 5-7pm at Yarck Memorial Hall. See ad in this edition for full details or email governance@murrindindishire.vic or phone 5772 0333.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1

Free health checks for the farming community. Diabetes, heart health and mental wellness at Yea Sale Yards.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4

Yea and District Historical Society Inc will be having their Annual General Meeting at 2pm at the Yea Shire Hall. New members welcome.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

Alexandra Secondary College open night from 6-8.30pm. The entire collage will be open for families to take guided or self guided tours. Staff from different learning areas will also be available.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

Yea Hospital and Rosebank Auxiliary will hold their AGM at 2pm in the Grace Bennetts

Centre meeting room, Yea. Afternoon tea will be provided. RSVP to Kaye 0400 424 888.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Flowerdale Hotel is celebrating it's first year of ownership. From 11am there will be live music, games, food and much more.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

Alexandra Garden Club AGM will be held at 2pm at the Uniting Church, Alexandra.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

Eildon Events Inc Annual General Meeting at 5.30pm at the Eildon Tennis Clubrooms, Eildon road, Eildon. New members welcome. Nomination forms for committee member positions available from the secretary at eildoneventsinc@gmail.com

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

UGFM Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm via Zoom. For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact via email at secretary@ugfm.org

Standard

Available from these retail outlets

Alexandra FoodWorks
Alexandra Newsagency
Alexandra Newspapers
Ampol Alexandra
Ampol Eildon
Buxton Shell
Eildon Grocer
Endeavour Alexandra
Hazeldene Store
Igloo Buxton
Marysville Grocer
Merton General Store
Seymour Newsagency
Taggerty Store
Thornton Store
Yea FoodWorks
Yea Newsagency

Alexandra Newspapers are members of:



House fire on Glendale Lane

AT 10.20am on Wednesday, July 23, emergency services were called to a house fire on Glendale Lane by a passer-by.

Incident Controller Shanon Frith said, "Unfortunately, when we got there, the house was already fully involved."

Nine emergency vehicles were in attendance at the fire, with about 25 firefighters on the scene. They were able to bring it under control in about 45 minutes, but further work was needed afterwards to black it out and make it safe.

The cause of the fire is not known. The resident or residents were not home at the time.

Separately, the CFA would like to remind people about the importance of working smoke alarms, and to be mindful of chimneys if you have an open fire.

Trees planted in Yarck for National Tree Day



The Home Creek-Spring Creek Landcare Group were out planting trees along the rail trail at Yarck last Sunday for National Tree Day. They planted around 130 trees in an hour to an hour and a half in dreary conditions. -BD



The planted trees alongside the rail trail in their protective covers. -BD



Guest speaker Sue Hendy with U3A president Deirdre Penhale and returning officer Greta Vallance. -S

U3A hold their AGM

SUE Hendy was the guest speaker at the U3A AGM, held on Monday July 21. She spoke on the subject of ageing and ageism, the importance of maintaining muscle strength and keeping active as we age, how age is often attributed to loss of memory when there may be contributing factors such as stress, grief or medication, and reminded people that age should not be a barrier to learning a new skill or to living a full and active life.

Sue was recently asked to co-chair a committee on Ageing and Ageism at the Australian Human Rights Commission and she is vice president of Tri Active Life in Marysville which provides a gym facility, step classes and line dancing for residents of the Marysville triangle.

Murrindindi East U3A is a recreational, educational and creative group of over 50s who are retired or semi-retired. Why not check out the many courses on offer. Perhaps you've always wanted to learn the ukulele or how to play mahjong, maybe you want to go bushwalking, cycling, play pickleball or try your hand at cryptic crosswords or bridge.

U3A is always on the lookout for new course ideas. If you have a hobby or skill that's your passion give course coordinator Libby a call on 0408 896 730.

You can enrol on line at murrindindieastu3a.org.au or pick up a brochure at the library, information centre or the bookshop in Alexandra, MiRA in Marysville or the Yea Library. Fees from now until the end of the year are now \$20 per person or \$30 per couple.



Ros, Yvonne and Kath. -S



Jeanne, Jill and Andrea. -S



Members enjoying soup and sandwiches for lunch. -S



The Thornton Service Station has fuel as well as a range of basic necessities. -BD

Thornton Service Station becoming part of the community

THE Thornton Service Station opened under new owners on July 4, providing fuel and a vast assortment of necessities to the local community.

Owner Avinash spoke about the support they have received from the community since opening.

"We are very happy with the people, because mostly in the regions it is hard to get the support, but here, we feel very welcome," he said.



Snacks and various goodies can be found at the Thornton Service Station. -BD

It took some hard work and elbow grease to get the service station up to speed for opening, but the Thornton Service Station is now fully stocked and operational.

Stock includes fishing and camping gear, automotive oils, groceries, snacks including chips and biscuits, health and beauty products, medicine, cleaning products, and of course, fuel, coffee, and hot food.

Avinash is also working to become a part of the Thornton community by supporting locals.

"We are running a promotion of giving two cents off fuel for the locals," he said.

Trading hours for the Thornton Service Station are 5.30am to 9pm seven days per week, with the plan to also be open 365 days per year.

"Mornings are mostly for the tradies," Avinash said.

"If they know we open at 5.30am, they can get easy petrol, snacks and coffee."

The menu for Thornton Service Station includes classics such as fish and chips, bacon and egg rolls, various burgers, and hot chips.

The Thornton Service Station is located on the Goulburn Valley Highway, at 1294 Goulburn Valley Highway, Thornton. They can be contacted on 0488 270 517.

ThorntonServo

5.30am to 9pm EVERY DAY

Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner

- Bain Marie (Hot Food)
- Fish and chips
- Burgers
- Sandwiches
- Salads
- Hot coffee
- Slushies
- Cold drinks (Energy, Soft, Dairy)
- Snacks

and so much more...

Did you forget it, we've probably got it.

A range of groceries including Milk, Bread, Eggs, Pet Food, Medicine, Health and Beauty, Kids Toys, Winter Wear and Accessories, Fishing Tackle and Live Bait, Newspapers, Firewood, Swap N Go, Ice, Soda Stream, Camping Supplies and Equipment, Vehicle Parts, Accessories and Oils, Mobile Phone Accessories, Toilets and best of all,

Great Friendly Service!

WE DELIVER food and instore products in the Thornton area

In a rush, order for pickup

☎ 0470 235 101

2 CENTS OFF PER LITRE

Fuel discount offer for seniors

(with Victorian Seniors Card) residing in Thornton, Eildon or Alexandra

Easier with a fuel account, apply here thorntonservo3712@gmail.com

1294 Goulburn Valley Highway Thornton ThorntonServo

Reunion of Alexandra Secondary College's class of 1984

FORMER students came from far and wide for the Alexandra Secondary College reunion of the class of 1984, a slightly belated 40 year anniversary.

One of the attendees, Andrew Reed, flew in from Tokyo for the event. He works there as a brand manager for a golfing company. Even when he was in school, he was a huge golfer, even wearing golf jumpers with the diamonds on the front. Another, Jenny Butler (nee Robb) from Rubicon. She was on a central Australia tour with her husband when she "ditched" him in Coober Pedy and flew back for the reunion.

"So as you can appreciate, there was quite some commitment by people to return," organiser Jacki Tossol said. "It may well be the first reunion that they've had."

The reunion was organised by Jacki, Darren Ritchie who now works for Murrindindi Shire Council and Lana Halit whose mother still lives in Alexandra.

The reunion started at 3pm on Saturday, July 19, with Jacki taking the group of about 30 on a tour through the school. Jacki is Leading Teacher at the school.

She said, "There are so many differences. So just the improvement in facilities and studying conditions left them quite gobsmacked. They thought the school was amazing in terms of the facilities that were provided. We do of course have a dedicated music room now with three recording studios and one of the girls, Donna Livingston, said that when she left in 1984, she left feedback for the school that we should have a music room. So she was thrilled to bits to see that music room. Some of the things that you know they had provided input on it had come to pass, so they were pretty impressed with that."

The tour went for about an hour and a half, looking at all areas of the school, not just internally at the new buildings and the reconfigured buildings, but also where buildings had been demolished, and at the external classrooms. In addition they surveyed the beach volleyball court, the downball area, the Memorial Garden and the new basketball court.

Many of these areas were in "a pretty poor state of disrepair when they were at school," Jacki said.

Brett Smedley, Andrew Hall and Andrew Reed were also presented with their HSC Geography IRPs, which they failed to collect at the end of 1984. Too good to throw out, Miss Trewin has kept them safe these past four decades and was delighted to return them to their appreciative owners.

Following the tour, they held a get-together dinner in the back area at the Corner Hotel, effectively their own space. Darren Ritchie had put together a photo display from key events during their school history, shown on a television provided for the group.

There was also some sharing of funny stories about their experiences while at school. "It reflected how much times at school have changed," Jacki said.

She said, "One that's widely known in the district is that in their era at school, they did gun club, so they brought their guns to school on the bus or over their shoulder on the back of their bike, unloaded of course. But it's a reflection of what a different era that was."

Jacki added, "We also had somebody that many locals would remember, a fellow by the name of Neville Harlock. Neville taught here [at Alexandra Secondary College] for 13 years. He was very popular among students. He was a maths teacher and so they were delighted that he returned from Melbourne. He just did a trip up and he drove back to Melbourne after the dinner. And Tom Farrell, also, who lives locally, he was the third staff member who was in attendance other than myself and Neville."



Sue Cartwright Kemp and Angelique Mullins Perry. -S



Janine Kristelly Vienet, Patricia Marsden and Brett Smedley. -S



Neville Harlock, Jacki Trewin Tossol, Tom Farrell, Janet Nicholas Tucci and Donna Fitzroy. -S



Tom Farrell, Donna Fitzroy, Jacki Trewin Tossol and Andrew Reed. -S



Andrew Reed and Jacki Trewin Tossol. -S



Angelique Mullins Perry and Suzanne Mitrachowitsch. -S



Donna Fitzroy, Jennifer Robb Butler and Andrew Reed. -S

Reunion of Alexandra Secondary College's class of 1984



Andrew Hall, Darren Ritchie, Tricia Smith London and Suzanne Mitrachowitsch. -s



Lana Halit, Sue Cartwright Kemp, Patricia Marsden and Janine Kristelly Vienet. -S



Sue Cartwright Kemp and Lana Halit Angove. -S



Renee O'Callaghan and Maurice Dunstan. -S



Janet Nicholas Tucci and Greg McKay. -S

How to lower the risk of blue-green algae on your property

MANY lakes and waterways have become enriched with algae food, being nitrogen and phosphorus. This can occur naturally or as a result of human activities.

When there is high levels of algae food, there is a greater chance of algae growing in large numbers.

Goulburn Murray Water (GMW) storages generally experience high levels of blue-green algae in late summer and early autumn, as algae thrive when there is plenty of sunlight, little wind and when temperatures are warm.

The algae bloom problem in South Australia is not related to Lake Eildon waters. GMW Water Quality Coordinator Bianca Atley said “The algae problem in South Australia is not due to blue-green algae.

“Blue-green algae are phytoplankton that are bacteria. The species causing the

problems in South Australia is *Karenia mikimotoi*, a marine plant species, not a freshwater species.”

To reduce the potential for blue-green algae on your property, Farmers can help by using best practice land management including appropriate use of fertilisers, animal effluent management, keeping stock away from waterways and drainage lines, in particular by fencing and the revegetation of riparian zones. Farmers can contact their local Landcare group or Catchment Management Authority for more advice.

If farmers suspect they have blue-green algae in their farm dam advice on the management of blue-green algae blooms may be obtained from Agriculture Victoria by phoning 136 186 or visiting their website.

Applications for community relief programs now open

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Gaelle Broad has encouraged local community and volunteer groups to apply for the 2025-2026 Community Food Relief Program local grants.

Groups eligible for funding include neighbourhood houses, community and volunteer-led organisations, and social enterprises.

Ms Broad urged eligible groups to apply, given the vital work local community and volunteer groups provide across the region.

Ms Broad said the demand for food relief had increased dramatically across Northern Victoria.

“It is critical that organisations are supported so they can help those in need,” Ms Broad said.

“This new round of funding will help and support the work so many of our community and volunteer groups provide in our community. I urge all our eligible groups to consider applying for the latest round of the Community Food Relief Program.”

Applications for the 2025-2026 Community Food Relief Program local grants close on Tuesday, August 19.

For more information and to apply, visit vic.gov.au/community-food-relief-program-local-grants

A collage of images showing students in school uniforms. Some are sitting at a desk with laptops, others are standing and talking.

Alexandra Secondary College Open Night

WEDNESDAY 6TH OF AUGUST 6.00PM TO 8.30PM

Come along to our combined Open Night for families who are interested in what Alexandra Secondary College has to offer. There are also specific sessions for families of students who in 2026 will be starting Year 7, 9, 10 or VCE. It's one evening where we will present all of the information you need.

Families just need to attend the sessions that interest them.

The entire College will be open for families to take guided or self guided tours. Staff from the different learning areas will be available throughout the College for parents and students to talk to and also there will be displays of everything the College has to offer.

TIME	SESSIONS FOR 2026 CLASSES	LENGTH	ROOM
6.00pm	Information session about YEAR 7	30 min	Library
6.30pm	A showcase of the opportunities that ASC students look forward to from Year 7 to Year 12	15 min	Library
6.30pm	Information session about YEAR 9	30 min	M8
7.00pm	Information session about YEAR 7	30 min	Library
7.00pm	Information session about YEAR 10	15 min	M8
7.30pm	Information session about LATER YEARS	30 min	M8
7.30pm	A showcase of the opportunities that ASC students look forward to from Year 7 to Year 12	15 mins	Library
6pm - 8.30pm	The college is open for families to look around, visit different subject areas and speak to our teaching staff.		

Proudly supporting
Student of the week

Community Bank · Yea & District and Alexandra

Bendigo Bank

ALEXANDRA PRIMARY SCHOOL



Penny

Penny has shown great resilience this week. She was an organised and supportive learning leader during our science session. She has approached her tasks with enthusiasm and dedication. We are proud to have you in our learning community, Penny. You are a star.

Student of the Week

Proudly supported by
Kinglake branch

Bendigo Bank

Celebrating Marysville Lions Club's achievements



Past District Governor John Beale installing club officers, president Neil Fookes, secretary Sherryn Doherty, treasurer Annemarie Schneider, vice president Tony Eldred, and past president Neil Guscott. -S

VISITORS from the Alexandra and Eildon Lions Clubs were welcomed by Marysville and District Lions to the annual changeover dinner, held on Saturday, July 20. All enjoyed a great night. Special guests included Mayor Cr Gallagher and Cr Sandice McAulay.

Marysville Lion Norman Fiske was presented with a Progressive Melvin Jones award in recognition of the time and effort he has given to two of the club's major projects, the Need for Feed and the Lions Skin Cancer Check bus.

The Need for Feed project has seen many hay bales sent from the area to hungry stock, proving to be a successful and much needed project.

In late June the free skin cancer check and awareness unit came to Marysville with 110 local people accepting the invitation to be checked for melanoma. It was also another great success.

Past District Governor John Beale installed the new club officers. Neil Fookes took on the role of president, Sherryn Doherty secretary, Annemarie Schneider treasurer, Tony Eldred vice president, and Neil Guscott past president.



Neil Guscott handing the gong and gavel to new President Neil Fookes. -S



Past District Governor Graham Cockerel from Need for Feed Lions Club with Lion Norman Fiske and PDG Neil Guscott both from Marysville Lions. -S



The outdoor area at the Flowerdale Hotel. -S



Sarah and Andrew. -S

Flowerdale Hotel: One year on and loving it

IT'S hard to believe that it's been a full year since the Flowerdale Hotel had a change of ownership. New owners, Andrew, Jacqui, Sarah and Evan reflected on the trials and tribulations of a year of hotel ownership, from relative novices to working with a vibrant experienced team and enjoying every step of the way.

"To begin, we were massively anxious about making such a huge change to our lives," Andrew Stocker, hotel owner and mainstay for the last 12 months said. "Giving up teaching, which is a job I have loved and thrive in, and I know for all of us this was a huge new adventure."

The locals are loving the change. The hotel has added regular live music, trivia nights, homework club and regular community events that are a huge hit.

The 'pub regulars' can't stop talking about the 'refreshing change' that has 'bought a breath of fresh air' into the community of Flowerdale, and that seems to be at the core of the new publican's philosophy, to create a community hub, where patrons feel comfortable.

The hotel now features kids' areas, a library, a small retail section and a comfy lounge area. On a cold winter's night, it's fantastic curling up with a refreshing ale by the open fire.

"When we were looking to buy, we wanted a classic country pub, with a bit of history and character," Andrew said, "a place we can call home and build a connection to a loving community... This has been a dream come true."

The owners are keen to support their community, donating where they can to community groups, and providing support to staff and their families when times are tough. They rally to a cause and spread their care and compassion beyond the hotel walls, and they love an excuse to party.

To celebrate their 12 months, they are opening their doors to the broader community, with two live bands, *Stoked*, a local rock covers band, and *Wild Turkey*, a classic Rockabilly band, established in the 80s and still rocking today. Discounted food and drinks will be available and for those travelling you can book a hotel room, or just camp in the paddock for free.



Wild Turkey. -S



Catnip. -S



Wild Turkey rocking at the Flowerdale Hotel. -S



Join us for our

1ST YEAR OF OWNERSHIP CELEBRATION

Saturday August 9 from 11am

with live music, games, great food and more

Monday
Kids eat free and homework club from 5pm and trivia from 7pm

Wednesday
Meat tray raffle and darts competition

Regular
live music and karaoke
Check out our socials for updates
 [theflowerdalehotel](https://www.instagram.com/theflowerdalehotel)
 [FlowerdaleHotel](https://www.facebook.com/FlowerdaleHotel)

• Functions • Entertainment • Beer garden
• Pool table • Kids area • Air conditioned • Open fire

📍 3325 Whittlesea-Yea Road, Flowerdale ☎ 5780 1230
 enquiries@flowerdalehotel.com.au
 [flowerdalehotel.com.au](https://www.flowerdalehotel.com.au)

The Farmer's Ag News

Time for a real Deer Management Strategy for Victoria

Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA) Victoria has called for an end to Victoria's expensive and ineffective Deer Control Strategy, urging the government to take the next logical step toward a modern, inclusive Deer Management Strategy that delivers measurable outcomes and supports regional economies.

Over the past four years, the Victorian Government has spent more than \$20 million on a contractor-heavy control program that has excluded the state's 50,000 recreational deer hunters. Yet during that same period, recreational hunters have removed around half a million deer at no cost to government, contributing over \$800 million to the Victorian economy.

"This isn't about doing nothing, it's about doing what works," said SSAA Victoria Communications Manager Barry Howlett.

"The current strategy is costly, opaque, and ultimately unsustainable. We're calling for a shift away from ideology-driven control programs and toward genuine, evidence-based deer management."

Mr Howlett acknowledged that the government has made significant progress in working with recreational hunters over the past 18 months, through initiatives like new arrangements for duck hunting, new game regulations, new breeds for hound hunting, new areas for deer stalking and a renewed willingness to engage with the hunting community.

"That shift in tone and engagement has been really encouraging," he said.

"We now have an opportunity to build on that momentum by replacing a siloed, bureaucratic control strategy with a proper management framework that not only improves environmental outcomes but also enhances the state budget rather than draining it."

A real deer management strategy, according to SSAA Victoria, must focus on actual impacts, not simply numbers. It must be place-based, adaptive, and include robust monitoring to measure effectiveness. Crucially, it must also recognise recreational hunters as legitimate and effective partners in achieving those outcomes.

"Public money should be spent where it makes a difference," Mr Howlett said.

"Right now, we have a strategy that's focused on spending millions shooting deer to waste, while ignoring a community of hunters who are already making a real impact, and doing it sustainably, ethically, and at their own expense."

SSAA Victoria is urging policymakers to seize this opportunity to modernise deer policy and develop a strategy that delivers for the environment, regional Victoria, and taxpayers.

The price is deer

The Invasive Species Council provided data from a 2022 report by Frontier Economics. It stated that over the next 30 years, feral deer in Victoria would cost farmers between \$245 million to \$350 million due to avoided grazing on farming land by feral deer, and between \$106 million to \$144 million due to avoided time spent on managing feral deer.

They also stated that between \$269 million and \$365 million to forest industries due to avoided losses in forestry production. This is now a moot point due to the closure of the native timber harvesting industry, but it indicates the impact on our forest areas as well.

The report also indicated the significant benefits associated with deer hunting.

In the same company's report, *Counting the Doe*, it states, "Our analysis suggests that if management is taken in 2022, the cost of removing all feral deer could be between \$338m and \$581m (depending on the population scenario)."

They also stated, "In recent years the Victorian feral deer population and distribution have rapidly increased. Our analysis suggests that feral deer numbers could grow to between 1.7 million to 4.6 million by 2050, an increase of between 103 per cent and 217 per cent over the next 30 years."

In terms of impact, the report notes the significant impacts including damage to crops, fouling of pastures, deer management costs (including shooting costs, fencing and replacing damaged property), reduced native forest growth due to the deer eating young shoots and bark-stripping, deer-related vehicle accidents, and the cost of increased water treatment requirements. They may also reduce biodiversity due to spreading weeds, trampling and ringbarking trees. The presence of deer may also impact restoration works, increase food competition with native wildlife, reduce waterway health, impact Indigenous cultural heritage, and there is the risk of disease. Many of these issues are likely to be exacerbated following fires.

The report states, "The current approach [to reducing the deer population] is unlikely to be sufficient" and "further action is likely to be required to manage reduce the rapid increase of feral deer in Victoria."

They further state, "The costs of acting quickly and decisively to remove feral deer will be lower than the cost of feral deer on the community."

Peter Jacobs, executive officer of the Victorian Deer Control Community Network

(VDCCN), said deer are currently classified as protected species under the Wildlife Act and believes that this is no longer required.

"We don't need to be protecting deer, there's hundreds of thousands of them throughout nearly half the state, but they aren't declared a pest because they're considered to be a game species for a hunting resource."

"We'd argue that time has long passed. These are no longer an obscure animal that people hunt through the bush. There's far too many. They're causing far too much damage, and they're one of the biggest pests in Victoria. It's time the government called them out and said that we're no longer need to be protecting deer. We need to declare them a pest, just like foxes, rabbits, goats, pigs."

Asked whether it might be time to introduce a bounty, Peter responded, "I don't believe so. Bounties aren't necessarily shown as being very effective. Deer hunters do take quite a lot of deer out of the environment, but not nearly enough to deal with the population growth. We need to be removing about 35 per cent of the population just to hold it stable. What we do need is more concentrated control programs, particularly aiming in the areas where having the most impact and also places that we can actually start to exclude them from."

Deer are widespread in the forests of Murrindindi Shire, and it's hard to exclude deer from these locations, however the populations can be reduced in more isolated pockets.

Peter said, "The priority is to really try to pull the population back and remove them from areas which they can be eradicated from and start to contain them, and around particular big assets like agricultural assets or where there are particular issues with road safety, really concentrating on those. We need to be strategic about controlling deer, not just saying, we have to take this number out. We have to look at where and how we go about it."

"I'd be suggesting the government get serious about calling them a pest and supporting programs that are looking at controlling and eliminating them where possible."

He added that while recreational hunters do remove some deer from the environment, they're not so much a control program. He believes that this needs to be done in a controlled manner.

"Recreational hunters tend to just go where they want to go and take what they want, so that contribute to the numbers being reduced, but they're not the answer. It goes well beyond recreational hunting. We need to look at where recreational hunting conflicts with other users as well. Not everybody likes to be around people who are out hunting for sport," he said.

The deer population has massively increased both in numbers and spread over the last few decades, just showing that recreational hunting hasn't had really any impact on the growth and the spread of deer... So we've got to come up with some better solutions."

He believes in targeted programs where deer are causing the most impact, such as protecting Alpine peat lands, rainforest environments and some national parks.

Some areas, including around Eildon, are yielding results from planned programs. These can involve professional as well as people from sporting shooter associations. He said, "They're experienced people that are involved in property planned conservation programs as opposed to sort of weekend shoots."

He added, "Now Victoria is realising they're a massive issue and we need to stop pretending there's some sort of protected species."

At present, a lot of costs are being put on to farmers as a result of the deer issue, including installing higher fences and taking the loss on pastures.

That's part of the problem with deer not being a 'pest' because farmers and the community do get assistance with controlling pests through the Department of Agriculture in some circumstances. But here they can't because they're not declared a pest. They have got an unprotection order on private land where private land owners can control the deer if they're causing a problem without having to get a permit. But that's a pretty small-scale sort of solution. The fact is that farmers have to front up with all the funds and the resources to stop their places being destroyed by deer and get no support."

He finished by saying, "We can't just rely on recreational shooters. It's clear that's not controlling the deer population. We've just got to get serious about this growing issue. Victoria is the only mainland state in Australia that still protects deer. Every other mainland state now has declared them a pest."

FREE Health Checks for the Farming Community

Diabetes, Heart Health & Mental Wellness



Further information on Yea Saleyards website and Facebook page

FRIDAY 1 AUGUST



JULY PHOTO COMPETITION

Submit your photo competition entry for JULY, for your chance to win a \$50 voucher from *Dindi Country Clothing* in Alexandria. The JULY theme is 'FROST'.



Email your photo and contact details to manager@alexandranewspapers.com.au by noon Wednesday, July 30, 2025

5772 1405

79 Grant Street Alexandria

Dindicountryclothing@gmail.com
facebook.com/DindiCountryClothing/

T&C: Professional photographers are ineligible to enter. Staff or associated family members of Alexandria Newspapers are ineligible to enter. One photo per entry. Photos must be taken within the Murrindindi Shire.

The Farmer's Ag News

Farmsafe warns against ignoring mental health impact of burnout

IN a week where Farmsafe Australia is urging the sector to reflect on the lessons hidden inside every near miss, the message is clear: some of those lessons aren't physical.

As National Farm Safety Week continues, Farmsafe is highlighting the link between burnout, situational distress, and the often unseen mental health risks in farming.

"In agriculture, we're pretty good at pushing through," Farmsafe Chair Felicity Richards said.

"But what we're not always good at is recognising when that push becomes too much, or when a string of near misses, losses, or long days becomes something bigger than just being tired."

This year's *Safer Farms Report*, sponsored by Wesfarmers Federation Insurance (WFI), paints a stark picture. While physical injuries are easy to tally, the mental health impact

of long hours, compounding pressure, and traumatic incidents, including near misses, are much harder to capture. But they're just as real.

"We often hear people say 'I'm just a bit off,' or 'it's been a big season', but that can mask burnout, chronic stress, or situational distress," Ms Richards says.

Situational distress refers to mental health strain that is triggered or worsened by difficult circumstances such as drought, injury, financial strain, or workplace trauma. On farms, it's particularly acute during high-pressure periods like sowing, harvest, shearing, or packing seasons, when sleep, decision-making and communication are all under pressure.

And when something goes wrong, even if no one gets hurt, the emotional toll and anxiety of a near miss can linger.

"This year's campaign is all about near misses," Ms Richards says, "But we want to be clear: sharing those stories is powerful, but it has to be done safely."

Farmsafe is encouraging individuals to take time before sharing a story to reflect on how it impacted them, and to consider the emotional safety of others, too.

"If it's too soon or too raw, that's okay," Ms Richards said. "You can share in private, or not at all. Sometimes, writing it down just for yourself, or sharing it with a trusted team member or mental health professional, is just as meaningful."

The campaign includes five key principles for safe storytelling: Share when you're ready, there's no pressure to speak before you've had time to process. Focus on the outcome, what changed as a result of the near miss? How did it help improve safety? Avoid graphic details, especially when talking with kids, new staff, or others who weren't involved. Acknowledge the emotion, it's okay to say something was frightening, upsetting, or rattling. Point to support, whether it's a peer, a hotline, or a local service, include a suggestion for where to go if someone needs help.

The campaign also urges farmers to recognise when stress has shifted from temporary to dangerous and to understand that mental health is not just about depression or diagnosed illness.

"Burnout doesn't always look like lying in bed," Ms Richards said. "It can look like snapping at your team, feeling overwhelmed

by small tasks, or finding it hard to focus on jobs you normally handle without blinking."

Other signs include trouble sleeping, increased reliance on alcohol or stimulants, constant fatigue even after rest, feeling isolated, unmotivated or numb, or difficulty making decisions.

In farming, where the line between personal and professional is often blurred, these symptoms can be missed or brushed off as 'just being busy.'

"But being busy and being unwell are not the same thing," Ms Richards says. "You can't afford to ignore the warning signs. On farms, your mental clarity keeps everyone safe including yourself."

The good news is that awareness is growing. Across the country, many farming families are taking mental health seriously; setting boundaries, building in recovery time, and having more honest conversations.

As National Farm Safety Week continues, Farmsafe is reminding everyone in agriculture: You are your most important safety tool.

"Safety isn't just about helmets and harnesses. It's about emotional bandwidth. It's about having the capacity to stop, assess, communicate and care. If your tank is empty, safety takes a hit."

Mental health support is available through Lifeline on 131 114, Rural Aid on 1300 327 624, Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636, Suicide Callback Service on 1300 659 467, or talk to a local GP or support worker.

Enhancing farm life for all abilities

THE state government is investing in a new all-ability initiative that is set to make farms safer and more inclusive, ensuring people of all abilities can fully participate in farm life with confidence and safety.

Acting Minister for Agriculture Gayle Tierney announced last week that \$25,000 in funding for Ability Agriculture will be made available. Ability Agriculture is an organisation which represents people living with a disability and promotes safety initiatives across the agricultural sector.

Ability Agriculture will create an online hub featuring resources and videos highlighting all-abilities modifications farm owners have made to support workers, family members and others.

The hub will feature videos with workers sharing their experiences, along with tips from occupational therapists on how to adapt farms and equipment to support all abilities. It will be available on the Ability

Agriculture website, which was launched last year.

The state government has also delivered \$44,000 to Monash University's Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit to better understand the context in which hospital-treated farm injuries occur in Victoria to inform future interventions.

This is in addition to the \$42,000 funding delivered to the University of Melbourne towards a project that identifies effective ways to support culturally and linguistically diverse people to work safely in agriculture.

This announcement came during National Farm Safety Week, between July 20 to 26, with the state government encouraging rural communities to keep safety and wellbeing front of mind.

To find more information on services, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/drought-support/mental-health-and-wellbeing-support

Government seeks right of entry onto farms

THE state government's proposed Right of Entry Bill, which would allow public officials to force their way onto the land of farmers and other property owners is set to face vigorous opposition.

The government's bill that is due to be debated in Parliament provides for extraordinary powers to be given to authorised officers under the National Electricity (Victoria) Amendment (VicGrid Stage Two Reform) Bill 2025.

Under the proposed legislation, individuals who resist the intrusion face fines of up to \$12,210 and up to \$48,842 for body corporates.

Government officers would be allowed to use reasonable force to enter land deemed necessary for the construction of electricity transmission towers across large swathes of the state.

They would have the power to remove any obstruction, with authorisation to cut locks and break open gates when undertaking involuntary entry onto properties.

Offences under the legislation include hindering, obstructing or delaying authorised activity; obscuring, damaging or destroying a notice of proposed entry; failure to

provide identification; and providing false identification, address, or evidence of ownership.

The farming community, including the Victorian Farmers Federation and Opposition Members of Parliament have all slammed the bill as an overreach that undermines property rights, creates legal uncertainty, and opens the door to forced access without adequate consultation or compensation.

Member for Eildon Cindy McLeish commented, "Farming families and regional Victorians are once again copping a hard whack from the Allan Labor Government. In an effort to rush madly to renewables, the government has decided it's okay to take away any voice landowners and regional communities might have. Regional communities should be consulted and have their say about what happens on their land. Many people are happy for renewables, but I can understand why people don't want to have kilometers of transmission towers on their properties."

She added that a Liberals and Nationals Government will oppose the Right of Entry Bill and restore normal rights.

The Trap By Jed Dunstan
www.jmdcartoons.com.au ©JD

"You used to be a wild boar, ...now you're just a bore..."

Sponsored by

Alexandra Grain Store
Plumbing & Rural Supplies

A family-owned local one stop shop for Plumbing, Irrigation, Farm, Stock and Pet Supplies.

46-48 William Street Alexandra

5772 2110

alexgrainstore@gmail.com





✓ Skills

✓ Income

✓ Community

Pines Learning providing accredited courses

Sally Brennan has been working in the adult community education sector for the past 35 years, and is passionate about what it can achieve in communities. As CEO of Pines Learning, Sally has been working with the Alex Hub to provide options and access for local people to get the support they need to achieve the qualifications they need for local work. Currently, Pines Learning is offering two pathways into work in the aged care and disability sector as well as early learning sectors.

Pines Learning is offering accredited courses in the second half of this year in Healesville, an option that might suit potential students from Murrindindi. The state government recently announced the Regional Disability Worker Scholarships to support people from regional Victoria to successfully participate in both Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing and Disability) as well as the Cert IV in Disability. "Both these courses are offered by Pines Learning, and the scholarship could significantly assist students to get through", Sally said.

Any students coming from Murrindindi could also be supported by additional study skills at the Alex Hub if they need it. "Sometimes students need extra help to get through", Sally said.

"These community learning environments build confidence, and are welcoming and engaging. Sometimes people don't realise their own potential, and the opportunity for extra support to get through can make a huge difference. It's all about filling those gaps for people."

Pines Learning is also offering traineeships as an option for training and employment. "This is a great option for people who want to work and study in their own communities, and particularly for people, say women whose children are getting that bit older, who want to explore aged care or disability support work", Sally said.

The aim is that "if learners need additional study skills, including literacy, numeracy and digital skills then the Alex Hub will provide that to the partnership. We recognise that not everyone's had the same journey, everyone is different," Sally said.



Sally Brennan. -AR

The two accredited training courses in Healesville are in ageing and disability, and early childhood. "Some of it's online, some is face to face, but it means that if there are people out here who want to study, it can be a more achievable option than travelling into the suburbs."

"If there are learners out here who are coming to Healesville, then there's the opportunity for them to utilise the Alex Hub for their study support and additional skills. The classes will be held in Healesville but the additional support will be available in Alexandra," Sally said. "For example, the

Hub is offering an Introduction to Aged Care course which will encourage people to discover whether it's something they want to do and give them initial skills."

"If people would like to find out more, please refer to the advertisement below for contact details which can be found on the website or just call us," Sally said. "We always welcome a phone call, and if you need any additional information just get on the phone."

"Our aim is to commence classes in the second half of this year. We want to support people and help them to achieve their dreams."

Learn Locally for In-Demand Jobs



Starts
Aug 11

CHC30121 Certificate III in Early Childhood Education & Care

Online 2 days per week and some face-to-face classes
Location: Healesville

Book a FREE info session today!

Contact: ✉ info@pineslearning.com.au or ☎ 9842 6726

Scan for
course
details



Hybrid study with \$0 TUITION FEES*

*For citizens and permanent residents only



Starts
Aug 18

CHC33021 Certificate III in Individual Support (Ageing & Disability)

Online 2 days per week and some face-to-face classes
Location: Healesville

Book a FREE info session today!

Contact: ✉ info@pineslearning.com.au or ☎ 9842 6726

Scan for
course
details



Scholarship available!

Regional students enrolled in Certificate III in Individual Support (CHC33021) may be eligible for a \$3,500 scholarship.

Visit: dfh.vic.gov.au/regional-disability-worker-scholarships

grow

Murrindindi

✓ Skills

✓ Income

✓ Community



Anna Jordan doing work experience for Tim Halligan. -S



Madison Ware at Alexandra Dental Clinic. -S



Saxon Macdonald at Bedrock Garden Supplies. -S



Jamie Nash at Eastern Tree Management. -S



Fletcher Vanlierop and Tom Clark at Helico. -S

Alexandra Secondary College thanks local businesses

ALEXANDRA Secondary College is keen to extend their sincere thanks to all the local businesses and organisations who generously supported students during last term's Work Experience Week. Your support, time, and mentorship provided invaluable real-world insights that go far beyond the classroom.

For many students, this was their first exposure to the workplace, which is a significant step in their personal and career development. The students gained insights into various industries, helping them shape their future career pathways with greater clarity and confidence.

Thank you to all of the businesses for their generosity and commitment. The school hopes to see you participating in the future.



Kayden Armstrong at Alexandra Automotive. -S



Blake Homan at Murrindindi Kitchens. -S



Chelsea Webb at the Yea Veterinary Hospital. -S



Gemma Frean at Murrindindi Shire Council. -S

Yea Arts calling for committee members

THERE'S something particularly satisfying about volunteering in your local community, putting names to faces, growing your circle and getting involved.

Yea Arts Inc has been around for more than ten years, evolving out of the Yea Arts Carnivale and YAPPERS, the community theatre group that's been entertaining locals since 2013. In that time Yea Arts has grown from a group of interested locals putting on plays, to a shire-wide concern offering workshops, travelling theatre, music events, professional shows and more.

This year alone has seen YAPPERS present live theatre with the hilarious and unhinged "They Came from Mars and Landed Outside the Farndale Avenue Church Hall", then the ShowTime team brought Keith Potger to Alexandra Shire Hall to celebrate 60 years of The Seekers. They ran "The Business of Art" workshops in Kinglake, Yea, Marysville and Alexandra, then just recently they engaged young people from across the shire in a weekend theatre lighting skills workshop.

In the next few weeks indigenous musician Dave Arden will perform at Homewood Hall, then September will see the "HIGH VOLTAGE" extravaganza gather a veritable crowd of guitarists onstage in Yea. In October the one-woman theatre production "Niusia" will play on October 18, followed by an oral history workshop the next day. Finally, the year's activities will close with Yea Carols in December.

It takes a team of volunteers to make all of this happen

At the Yea Arts Inc AGM on October 28 the group will fill the roles of President, Treasurer and committee members. If you love the arts and like the idea of working with a fun team to make events happen, they would love you to come along and nominate. The work is collaborative, great fun, and you get to learn all sorts of skills along the way.

If this sounds interesting, talk to the Yea Arts Secretary, Adam Dennis, on 0488 670 077 or email them at YeaArtsInc@gmail.com

For more detail about what's involved, take a look at their website: YeaArtsInc.org



YEA ARTS INC

We want to live in a thriving Arts community!

Are you looking to volunteer in the Shire, have fun, make people happy, do great work?

Yea Arts Inc is looking to fill Committee roles at our AGM this year. Will you come and join us?

AGM 28 October 2025

Find out more - call Adam on 0488 670 077

YeaArtsInc.org

Treating wombat mange is always the best option

SHELLEY from Narbeview Wildlife Shelter has noticed an increase in wombats suffering from mange in the area, and was keen to let the public know that it can be treated.

She said that some people are concerned that their dogs, cats or cattle will catch it from the wombats, however this isn't always the case, and all can be easily treated if they do.

"Domestic animals will be fine," she said. "But if we bring wombats into care, because they're already immunocompromised, they don't do very well." Ideally, the wildlife carers can treat the wombats or their burrows on people's land.

While mange looks awful and the animal is suffering, treatment is still possible.

The wildlife carers can put a burrow flap if the location of the burrow is known. This will then be refilled about once a week across 14 weeks. If the carers are unable to find the burrow, then they will catch the wombat and treat it by pouring the medication down its back. While sometimes they can be hard to catch, they're generally quite sick with mange and stay around the same area. They also tend to be alone, as other wombats may try to kill it due to the illness.

Wombat mange is sarcoptic mange. It's a mite that burrows in



A wombat with mange. -S

under the skin and makes big crusts on the skin. They multiply under the skin and eventually die, because the crusts are so thick that the wombat can't move.

Asked how many cases she sees annually, Shelly responded, "Lots and lots and lots. It's so prevalent. It's a very big problem and it is

wiping them out because it's very contagious too.

Shelley added, "They're saying that foxes are spreading it... because they burrow share. Foxes and other animals go in the wombat burrows. This is how it's spreading. It doesn't come off the host until that host dies. It will stay on that wombat and

feed off that wombat. That's why they're so immunocompromised. It takes every bit of nourishment and nutrition that they have. They look so terrible and they become emaciated and die."

While it can impact other wildlife, generally wombats are the most impacted.

Dogs generally get demodectic mange, but can also get sarcoptic mange from a wombat. Shelley said, "People have reported that their dogs have got it from a wombat... People are better off making sure that the wombats are treated properly to ensure the safety of their dogs and other creatures."

If anyone spots a wombat with mange, they should report it to a local wildlife carer. In some instances, the wombat be may too sick and will need to be euthanised, otherwise it will be treated.

The other problem is disposing of the body properly. Shelley said that some people will shoot the wombat thinking it's the right thing to do and then just leave the body there in the paddock. That's how it's spreading, because the mange might then come off because that host has died, they can't feed off it anymore and they go looking for another host.

Shelley said that as a wildlife carer, she will dig a hole for a dead wombat with mange which is at least two metres deep and then cover it with lime. Foxes can't smell it because the lime gets rid of the smell.

"It's become quite an epidemic and we need to do something," Shelley said.

July meeting of council

Murrindindi Shire Council held their monthly council meeting on Wednesday, July 23 at the Alexandra Council Chambers.

Apologies and planned leave

Cr Carpenter requested planned leave from August 4 to August 23 and Cr Carr requested planned leave from August 4 to August 18. Both requests were granted.

No disclosures of interest were noted for the meeting held and no petitions or community recognition for the meeting.

Public participation

Eildon resident Cleveland Aitken talked about items 4.2. and 4.3 on the agenda, being the planning applications for development in Eildon.

He expressed his concerns that council is not undertaking the correct process for developing Eighth Street and 21st Street in Eildon, with concerns going back some 25 years.

Cleveland also referenced a petition to keep the land signed by around 150 people.

During his speaking time he made several claims that Mayor Gallagher stepped in to refute, leading to debate between the pair.

4.1 Eildon Key Worker Housing Project Background, Process and council's role

It was recommended that all items regarding this matter be deferred to a future meeting. The items relate to the Eildon key worker housing project however there was an error in the advertising on council's part. As a result, the applications will be advertised for a further 14 days with signs on site to ensure anyone who relies on the signs be informed about the project and have an opportunity to vote.

Adoption of the Council Plan 2025-2029

Cr Hildebrand spoke about the adoption of the *Council Plan 2025-2029* and the process to get where they have gotten to today. The plan reflects community vision and community values and set clear direction for a thriving, inclusive and sustainable future.

Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy Review

The Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy was adopted by council on June 26, 2024. The policy provides clear guidance to staff and councillors on the use of AI in the workplace. It also informs the public on when council may use AI and the principles that will guide its use. The policy sets a clear expectation that council remains responsible for the decisions it makes and the information it provides, regardless of whether generative AI is used or not.

The 12-month review policy is now up for discussion and minor edits are to be made of the revised policy. Cr Carr noted the importance of 12-month reviews to keep up to pace as changes with AI evolve.

Adoption of the Revenue and Rating Plan 2025-2029

Council is required under the *Local Government Act 2020* to adopt a *Revenue and Rating Plan* in the year following a council election covering a four-year period. The *Revenue and Rating Plan* provides the framework by which council will raise its principal sources of revenue in a fair and equitable way to meet its strategic objectives in the *Council Plan 2025-2029* and for the delivery of council's services and infrastructure to the community.

Mayor Gallagher questioned the Director of People and Corporate Performance, Mr Chesworth,

"There are other levies which are charged to ratepayers on their rates notice but are not mentioned in the revenue and rating plan. May one assume that some state government levies are not treated as council revenues' and do not contribute to the delivery of council services?"

Mr Chesworth said on the rates notice council are required by legislation to collect the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund (ESVF) levy that was formerly called the Fire Services Property Levy. This is the levy charged by the state government to fund emergency services in the state. Council are the collection agency for this and added to the rates bill and send to state government.

Adoption of the Community Waste Charge Policy

The report seeks council's endorsement of the proposed Community Waste Charge Policy. The policy aims to establish a fair, transparent and administratively efficient framework for the application of a Community Waste Charge. The charge will contribute to the cost of delivering garbage and recycling services across the shire, including the operation of Resource Recovery Centres (RRCs).

Cr Carpenter said this is a fair and transparent system where all of the community contribute to the cost of delivering rubbish and recycling service and that she thinks it's the fairest way to go for the community. This was seconded by the other councillors.

Snobs Creek Road upgrade and widening

Report to award contractor for upgrade and widening for Snobs Creek Road. The scope is to seal trafficable width of the first 2.9km of Snobs Creek Road from 5m to 6.2m to improve safety for all users of the road. The works to be completed in two stages.

Seven submissions were received at the close of tender and the contractor is awarded to Tenderer 1, TDM Earthworks Pty Ltd, for a total contract value of \$830,690.

Councillor reports

Cr Carr spoke of the busy school holidays and how it's good for the shire, as well as the Thornton women's football team and how well they are going and how they give back to the community. She spoke of the Eildon Container Deposit Scheme advocacy work she has been doing. At this stage there is no update, but she will keep people in the loop.

Cr Lording spoke about nearing completion on path and drainage renewal work in Buxton and preparing for new road contracts. The team have been advocating for Department of Transport and Planning new wire rope barriers on the Melba and Goulburn Valley Highways.

Cr McAulay spoke of the visit from the Small Business Commissioner, who came to Alexandra to sign the small business friendly charter. She also spoke of the change in new financial year for businesses and what businesses are facing.

Cr Adams attended events related to national tree day and more upcoming events, and reminded people to nominate your favourite street tree. She spoke on current projects related to wellbeing in the shire. The municipal public health and wellbeing plan draft is being developed and coming to council for future endorsement in October. There will be a project meeting about the Alexandra Early Learning Centre with the Victorian School Building Authority on August 13. The facility is to be government owned and operated, with the school site to be operational in 2028-29.

Cr Hildebrand spoke of much needed rain and the modest downpour giving farmers hope. In August two more 'Just a Farmer' screening events will be held. He also said that rates notices will be coming soon and to please contact council if you are experiencing difficulty.

Cr Carpenter is looking forward to spring. National Tree Planting week is a great time to get out in your garden and the public are welcome to get your hands dirty and help out. She mentioned that new kerbside service has commenced and thanks residents for getting on board and using the app to educate themselves about the future of recycling.

Mayor Damian Gallagher spoke of the kerbside rollout and communities' participation and council staff through the transition. He has been out and about and attended the announcement to receive \$875,000 from the Victorian Government for the Kinglake Memorial Reserve upgrade from the Community Sport Minister Ros Spence. He went to the Yack photographic exhibition showing great storytelling and the Alexandra Volunteer Exhibition. He thanked everyone who attended and said promising networks were established on the day.

CEO report

Council auspice the farm forestry innovation working group and grant application which were successful for \$130,000 for delivery of farm forestry projects.

There is an open council forum Wednesday, July 30 at Yack Hall 5pm to 7pm, an informal setting. The *Domestic Animal Management Plan* is out for consultation at the moment, and there is a survey online or you can talk to the team.

KID'S PUZZLES PUZZLES

SOLUTIONS
Page 18

Colouring Page



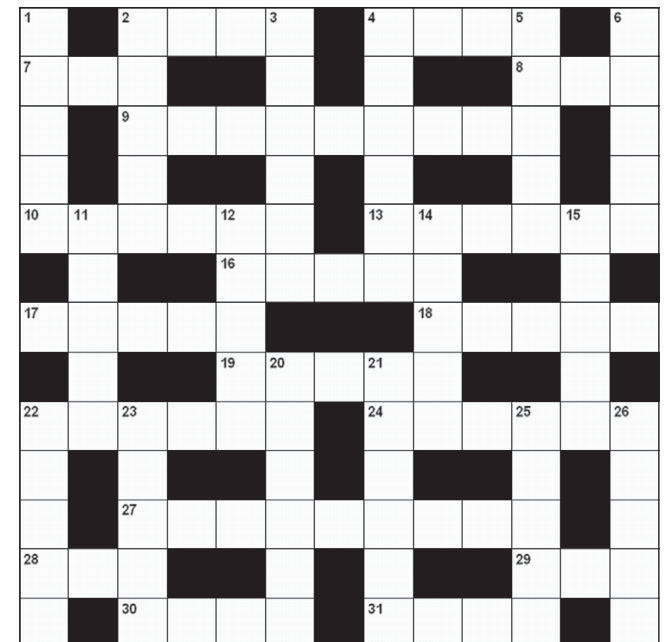
Crossword

ACROSS

2. Beef cattle.
4. Notes down.
7. Never been used.
8. Worthless dog.
9. Person who lives next door.
10. Curly-leaved salad plant.
13. Lag behind.
16. The spirit of a community.
17. Produce a smudge.
18. A deceitful scoundrel.
19. An expressive style.
22. Rotten egg.
24. Grants made by a law court.
27. A disposition towards silence.
28. A creative skill.
29. By way of.
30. Three feet.
31. The underside of a shoe.

DOWN

1. Bring together.
2. Had possession of.
3. Small lump of gold.
4. Sexual drive.
5. A young haddock.
6. A withered old woman.
11. A wanderer.



12. Incline in a certain direction.
14. Twisted to one side.
15. Furiously angry.
20. Swirled against the current.
21. Large black birds.

22. White, Nordic person.
23. Not pure or clear.
25. Fasten by passing through a hole.
26. Illegally occupy a house.

Word Search

U I W Z K O G X H O E C S A M
O O J X D S U N E Q Q O T F C
M G W T E T N T I K S Z S O I
I L B Q K R A F S N O D J O T
J Z O F O I E S J I E H P F S
S D A L O C C E X M D P L F I
U E N S I H O S L L G E O E M
D P C W X V H O C T O B E R I
T A R G N O I N O S T R R I T
R D W O D M M A U U C Y Z N P
J X Y E P O P P S K C M M G O
P K U L U D O E Y X X A O L E
E G O A H T O R A N G U T A N
M D T N C T N E I D E B O B C
Y Z L O J Z L J V L Z H U B E

Words starting with "O"

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| OBEDIENT | ONION |
| OBTUSE | OPENING |
| OCEAN | OPTIMISTIC |
| OCTOBER | ORANGUTAN |
| OCTOPUS | OSCAR |
| OFFERING | OSTRICH |
| OLIVIA | OUTSIDE |

Math Square

	+		-	3	4
+		+		+	
7	-		+		9
+		-		+	
	-		-		-12
13		-1		15	

Fill in the missing numbers.

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9.
Each number is only used once.
Each row is a math equation.
Each column is a math equation.
Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Word Search

S P Q Z N J C W C F G N J A W
C E J G S W N H L R F E Q K H
G L I O H Y U O A W N L F I Z
A A S L D R W S J K R L W F N
R H M F F E S J S Q I O A O D
D D Z C R R H N D W C P I H L
E V I S N O E U U I E T C V D
N T I U R F T T B Y A E O P N
I M M S E E B S T N R O D Z U
N U M G A I W M I U F K U S D
G H C N N M K M M C B M V R T
V D R A I N R L I X D W Z G Y
G L F Q F E E U Y N G V Y F J
T P H A G F L N G K V O F R M
Z A O V J S H X T D W C M K O

Spring

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| BEES | GERMINATION |
| BUDS | GRASS |
| BUTTERFLIES | POLLEN |
| FLOWERS | RAIN |
| FRUIT | STORMS |
| GARDENING | WEEDS |

Math Square

	×		+	8	14
×		-		-	
	+	7	+		16
-		+		-	
	-		-		-14
11		1		-6	

Fill in the missing numbers.

The missing values are the whole numbers between 1 and 9.
Each number is only used once.
Each row is a math equation.
Each column is a math equation.
Remember that multiplication and division are performed before addition and subtraction.

Cryptogram

Spring

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
13								

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
					17			19

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

$\frac{O O}{4 \ 6 \ 17 \ 17 \ 7}$ $\frac{O R}{11 \ 17 \ 21 \ 19}$
 $\frac{O}{17 \ 11 \ 15}$ $\frac{A}{11 \ 13 \ 16}$ $\frac{R}{9 \ 1 \ 9 \ 19 \ 16}$
 $\frac{O R}{2 \ 6 \ 17 \ 11 \ 9 \ 19}$ $\frac{A}{8 \ 13 \ 14}$
 $\frac{'}{10 \ 22}$ $\frac{O}{14}$ $\frac{A}{17 \ 11 \ 15}$ $\frac{A}{7 \ 13 \ 20 \ 10 \ 26}$

Sudoku

9			8	4				
	5				3			
	4	9	3		6			
			7		4	9		
4	2				1		6	
	6	9		2				
	8		1	9	7			
	1				2			
			6	4				3

Difficulty: Medium

Fill in the boxes using the numbers 1 to 9.
Every row and column and every group of 9 boxes inside the thicker lines must contain each number and letter only once.

Jokes

Q: How do you make an artichoke?

A: You strangle it

Q: What do you call an old snowman?

A: Water

-photos by AR



Students gathering for the event. -AR

Big Freeze fundraiser at Alexandra Secondary College



BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY

TO BOOK AN AD PLEASE PHONE 5772 1002

ANIMAL SERVICES

IN THE PINK Behaviourist and Certified Master Dog Groomer

0418 556 001
www.pinkdog.com.au

BLINDS & CURTAINS

CHOOKIES FLOORING XTRA

PH 57722 152
1 Hall Street ALEXANDRA e: chookies@virtual.net.au

FREE Measure & Quote
SHUTTERS BLINDS AWNINGS CURTAINS

COMPUTERS

ACROSS TECHNOLOGY

Does your business need reliable, affordable & informed IT support?

We offer:

- Remote management and monitoring
- Onsite and offsite backups
- Sales, service & repairs of Networks, Servers, PCs, laptops, tablets & phones
- Hosting for business websites & emails

Contact Anthony on 0478 534 826
Visit <https://axti.com.au>

EXCAVATION & EARTHMOVING

BUXTON EXCAVATIONS

- House and Shed Sites
- Side Cuts / Driveways
- Drainage / Erosion Works
- Dams / Vegetation Mulching
- Hazardous Tree Removal
- 20 Ton Excavators
- 3 Ton Excavator
- Quad Axle Float



Darren
0447 198 740
Barney
0488 016 820



Taggerty Vet Clinic

Dr Rebecca Parth BVSc
0403 012 996
Consultations strictly by appointment

All Animals Large & Small

BOOKKEEPING



TURNOVER BOOKKEEPING

- *BAS *IAS *Superannuation
- *Accounts Receivable
- *Accounts Payable *Payroll

Ph Trevor Turner
0419 575 176

CONVEYANCING



CONVEYANCING & PROPERTY TRANSFER SPECIALISTS

Debra Loveday
5772 2500
71 Grant Street, Alexandra
debra@sargeantsm.com.au
Conveyancing throughout Victoria

ELECTRICIANS

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS



- Domestic / Commercial
- Undergrounds
- Cable Locations • Trenching
- Solar Installations & Batteries

Ph 0418 543 310

info@e-tec.net.au
www.etecelectrical.com.au

MM00042

Rec No 12906

ANTENNAS

Christopher Edwards
0405 554 915
info@chris-tv.com.au
Sec Reg: 997-462-605

Chris's TV
The Television Reception Specialist

- TV & FM radio antennas
- Starlink, VAST & Foxtel installs
- Extra TV wall points
- TV brackets & wall mount TVs
- Surround sound systems
- Home theatre
- Data points & mesh WIFI
- CCTV security systems

Fully Registered Fully Insured

AUTOMOTIVE



At Alexandra Service Centre we offer a wide range of services:

- Log book servicing
- General servicing
- Fleet car servicing
- Mechanical repairs
- RACV Roadside Assist
- Towing
- RACV Pre-Purchase Inspections
- Roadworthys
- Trailer servicing
- Car batteries
- Auto electrical repairs
- Air conditioning

We now have several courtesy cars available when booking a service or repairs

Come in and see the team at
6A Webster Street, Alexandra
Phone: 5772 2133

BUILDERS & CARPENTERS

HBI CONSTRUCTIONS SCOTT HILL
Registered Builder
0439 730 824

- NEW HOMES • EXTENSIONS
- RENOVATIONS • DECKS
- SWIMMING POOLS

info@hbiconstructions.com.au
hbiconstructions.com.au

REGISTERED Building Practitioner member

RBP - DBU 47736 HIA 1169777

CAR DETAILING

GW Carpet Cleaning

- ✓ Stain removal
- ✓ Urine treatment
- ✓ Upholstery cleaning
- ✓ Carpet steam cleaning
- ✓ Tile and grout cleaning

Ph 0427 322 124
admin@gvrestorations.com.au

CHIMNEY SWEEPING

ALEXANDRA CHIMNEY SWEEP

Solar Panel Cleaning
Annual cleaning recommended
Phone David and Robyn
0413 299 154

BIN HIRE

RUBBISH REMOVAL
• DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

- Builders Waste
- 6m Walk In Bins
- Household Waste
- 3m Bins

Alexandra SKIP BINS
22 BON ST, ALEXANDRA
CALL SIMON GOODMAN
0409 997 632

Burchall Earthmoving

- ROADWORKS
- DAM WORK
- HORSE ARENAS
- GRAVEL SUPPLIES
- HOUSE & SHED SITES



Phone Shane
0418 589 240

Owner operator with local knowledge

Murrindindi EARTHMOVING
DAVID BAIRD, ALEXANDRA

0408 575 962

- Bobcat, Excavator and 4x4 Tipper Hire
- Post and Stump Hole Boring • Trenching
- Site Clearing • Material Delivery • Rock Breaking

EXCAVATOR HIRE

---- FOR HIRE ----

D6T dozer D5M dozer
Cat 12 h/grader Tipper
16T excavator Water cart
Hay and Silage

Ernie Hadfield (20 years experience)
0429 931 127
ernie.hadfield@bigpond.com

ENGINEERING

HUNTED ENGINEERING

- Ute trays and canopies
- Steel and aluminium welding
- General welding • Onsite welding

10 Peterkin Place, Alexandra VIC 3714
www.huntedengineering.com.au
(03) 5772 2132 0427 937 404
Office hours: Mon-Thurs: 8am-4:30pm. Fri: 8am-1pm.

Like us on
facebook
facebook.com/alexandranewspapers

BUSINESS & TRADES DIRECTORY**PHONE 5772 1002****GLAZIERS****ALEXANDRA
WINDSCREENS
& GLASS**Servicing the Murrindindi Shire
for 35 years

★ on site 24 hour service ★

- ★ Automotive glass ★
- ★ Household needs ★
- ★ Shower screens ★
- ★ Shop fronts ★

Ph Steve Heard
YOUR LOCAL GLAZIER
0427 577 839

MECHANICAL REPAIRS

**Boz
Miljkovic**
Mechanic

Alexandra Automotive
VACC

61 Downey Street, Alexandra
Ph (03) 5772 3232

- General Car Servicing
- Repairs & Tuning
- Batteries
- Road Worthy Certificates
- Disc & Drum Machining
- Front Ends & Suspension

EMC0009

SERVICE STATIONS

Fuelling North East Victoria since 1953
with quality products and great service.

Supplying bulk fuels to your farm or business.
Lubricant specialists, catering for all your needs
with Mobil and Prolube lubricants,
greases and solvents.



Ampol Alexandra
Ampol Eildon
Mansfield Diesel Stop



0357721205 | www.simpsonsfuel.com.au

TREE SERVICES**NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL**

- Commercial and residential block clearing
- Deadwood and weight reduction
- 24-hour emergency call outs
- Tree and stump removal
- Pruning and shaping
- 3.6 Tonne excavator
- Insurance works
- Storm damage

**FULLY
INSURED**

Andrew Bates: **0488 990 393**
Kate Hill: **0407 555 440**

WATER CARTAGE**NEED
WATER?**

Delivering drinking water to
Alexandra & surrounding areas

0491 795 157**PUZZLES
SOLUTIONS****CROSSWORD**

U	O	X	E	N		L	O	G	S		C
N	E	W		U		I				C	U
I		N	E	I	G	H	B	O	U	R	O
T	E		G		I			O		N	
E	N	D	I	V	E		D	A	W	D	L
O			E	T	H	O	S				I
S	M	E	A	R				K	N	A	V
A			G	E	N	R	E				I
A	D	D	L	E	D		A	W	A	R	D
R		I			D			V			E
Y		R	E	T	I	C	E	N	C	E	U
A	R	T		E		N		V	I	A	
N		Y	A	R	D		S	O	L	E	T

MATH SQUARES

3	x	2	+	8	14
x		-		-	
4	+	7	+	5	16
-		+		-	
1	-	6	-	9	-14
11		1		-6	

SUDOKU

9	3	6	7	8	4	5	2	1
7	8	5	1	6	2	3	4	9
1	2	4	9	3	5	6	7	8
8	1	3	5	7	6	4	9	2
4	7	2	8	9	3	1	5	6
5	6	9	4	2	1	8	3	7
3	4	8	2	1	9	7	6	5
6	9	1	3	5	7	2	8	4
2	5	7	6	4	8	9	1	3

CRYPTOGRAM

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
13	4	26	5	9	2	20	8	10	23	18	6	7
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
15	17	24	12	19	14	22	21	1	11	3	16	25

**BLOOM YOUR OWN WAY,
EVERY FLOWER HAS
IT'S OWN MAGIC**

KIDS - MATH SQUARES

1	+	6	-	3	4
+		+		+	
7	-	2	+	4	9
+		-		+	
5	-	9	-	8	-12
13		-1		15	



- Residential And Commercial Glass Replacement
- New Work
- Quality Double Glazing
- Mirrors
- Splash-Backs
- Shower Screens
- Pet Doors Into Single And Double Glazed

Rob - 0439 141 812**Alexandra Motorcycles**

- Authorised Dealer • Tyre fitting service
- Road, Enduro, Quad, Side by Side repairs
- Servicing for popular brands • Honda spare parts

VACC MEMBER
65 Downey Street (near secondary college)
PH 5772 1045

EMC4459

PAINTERS

W. & J. GREEN

**PROFESSIONAL
PAINTING**

50 Years experience in all things painting

0407 134 756**PLUMBERS**

John Taylor 0419 340 908
Over 40 years experience
Licenced Plumber & Gasfitter No. 26477
General plumbing maintenance
Hot water unit replacements
Wood heater installation
Roof repairs
taylorplumbing.com.au

**Advanced
TREE CARE**
Servicing N.E. Victoria

- ✓ Tree Removal ✓ Chipping ✓ Qualified Climbers & Arborists ✓ Fully Insured
- ✓ Felling ✓ Mulching ✓ Stump Removal
- ✓ Tower Hire ✓ Free Quotes

Please call **0449 810 683**
Michael on (03) 5778 7479

WATER BORING**North West Drilling****Water Bores**

Extensive experience in drilling for water in Mansfield,
Alexandra and surrounding areas.
Established since 1976

For answers to all your questions and a
no obligation free quote contact GRAHAM BRENNAN
Phone/Fax: (03) 9436 1982 Mobile: 0409 362 289
northwest.drilling@bigpond.com
www.northwestdrilling.com.au

EMC1840

WATER BORING

No water, no charge
after free site inspection

Ph Des Murray
0428 518 159

MM00039

KITCHENSCan design
and build...

Custom built kitchens, 3D kitchen design,
Granite and Reconstituted stone, laundries,
Creative design and quality,
vanities, wardrobes

0409 146 465

38 Johnston St, Alexandra
sales@murrindindikitchens.com

LEGAL SERVICES

Lawyers and Town Planning Consultants
Angelina Bell – Principal Solicitor
0448 793 795
admin@belllegalplanning.com.au

Louise Brennan
BARRISTER & SOLICITOR

1560 Goulburn Valley Highway, Alexandra
Mobile 0418 414 875
Phone 5773 2298 Fax 5773 2294

EMC0139

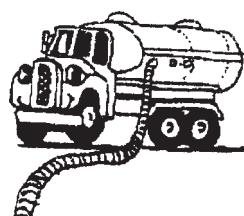


Like us on
facebook

facebook.com/alexandranewspapers

SEPTIC TANK CLEANING

**SEPTIC TANK
& GREASE
TRAP
CLEANING**



EPA LICENCED

~ ALL HOURS ~

5962 4841
0419 131 958

EFTPOS & Credit
Cards Accepted

EMC0112

Classifieds

Call 5772 1002 now to book your ad today! Fax: 5772 1603 or Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

ALEXANDRA
NEWSPAPERS



Classified information

Office hours

Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm
Ph 5772 1002

E: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au

Deadline - Noon Monday

Proofs

Line ads proofs not supplied
Display will only be supplied if requested

Payment

Payment is required at the time of placing a classified advertisement. Cash or credit card facilities available. Master Card or Visa (no AMEX). Non-payment prior to deadline may result in advertisement not appearing.

Death notices

Cannot be published without confirmation from a direct family member or funeral director.

Vehicles/Deals on Wheels

Registration number or VIN number must be included in advertisement. Deals on Wheels will run for 8 weeks unless cancelled.

Bargains under \$100

Either one item to the value of \$100 or several items not totalling more than \$100.

Animals

It is an offence to advertise the sale of a dog or cat or to give away free unless the Source number and microchip identification number of each animal generated by the Pet Exchange Register is included in the advertisement.

Refunds or credits

Check your advertisement on its first appearance. Although every care is taken to ensure your advertisement is correct errors can occur. Notify us immediately if there are errors in your advertisement. Refunds or credits will not be issued if your advertisement has appeared more than once and you have not notified us. Credits or refunds will not be given if advertisements appear out of order.

Conditions of advertising

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd has the right to refuse any advertisement. Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd gives no guarantee for positioning of advertisements.

Copy right

Material published in this edition is subject to copyright provisions and cannot be used without the company's permission.

Alexandra Newspapers Pty Ltd accepts no responsibility for the unauthorised republication of such material.

TRADES ADVERTISING DEADLINE NOON THURSDAY

The Alexandra Standard and The Yea Chronicle are printed by North East Media, Wangaratta.

Print Post Approved - PP 100000292.

MEETINGS



Eildon Events Inc.
Annual General Meeting, Thursday, August 14, 2025, 5.30pm at Eildon Tennis Clubrooms, Eildon Road, Eildon.

New members welcome.
Nomination forms for committee member positions available from the secretary: eildoneventsinc@gmail.com

For more information please call 0409 050 494.
A normal committee meeting will follow the AGM.



Upper Goulburn Community Radio
Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, August 18 at 7.30pm via Zoom. For a meeting link or to nominate for committee contact via email secretary@ugfm.org or PO Box 270, Alexandra, Vic, 3714 or call 5772 2722.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
Land Act 1958.

Notice of intention to grant licence for the purpose of grazing/riparian management.

Notice is hereby given that it is the intention of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to grant a licence under Section 130 of the Land Act 1958 to:

M.S ROBB over Water Frontage to the Rubicon River, abutting lot 2 LP6557, Parish of Taggerty.

L.G.L PERRY over Water Frontage to the Steavenson River, abutting Crown allotment 27, Parish of Buxton.

Further information or comments can be lodged with the Crown Frontage Property Officer, Sarah Brown on 8508 0685 within 14 days.

MEETINGS



Yea Hospital and Rosebank Auxiliary Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 7 at 2pm in the Grace Bennetts Centre Meeting Room at 20 Miller Street, Yea. Afternoon tea will be provided. RSVP Kaye on 0400 424 888.

ALEXANDRA GARDEN CLUB AGM will be held at 2pm on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at the Uniting Church Alexandra.

EILDON ACTION INC will hold its Annual General Meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 4pm at the Eildon Information Centre, 1 Main Street, Eildon. The agenda of the meeting will be to report on the finances for the year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, confirm office-bearers and set membership fees for the next year.

YEA AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC
Annual General Meeting Monday, August 4, 2025 at 2pm at Yea Shire Hall. New members welcome.

MEETINGS

YEA Garden Club AGM will be held on Thursday, August 14 at 1.30pm at Yea RSL. All welcome. Phone 0418 378 806 for enquiries.

PETS & LIVESTOCK

ISA BROWN LAYERS - POL, \$28 each. Phone 5798 1868. Pick-up in Alexandra or Yea. beckysfreerange@gmail.com

FOR HIRE

FITNESS EQUIPMENT

Rental and Sales
Alexandra
Treadmills, X- trainers, exercise bikes, rowers and more.
PH:0407 231 377

GARAGE SALES

ALEXANDRA, 46 Nihil Street.
Saturday, August 2. 9am - 1pm. Shed and house clearance. Trailer, ladder, gardening, chain saw, filing cabinet and furnishing.

YEA, 33 East Street.
Saturday, August 2, 9am-3pm. Moving house, lots to sell.

SITUATIONS VACANT



Finance Manager (Part time)

This is a strategic role in the overall financial management of the organisation.

Qualification required.

Contact us for a position description:

Email careers@menziessupport.org.au or Ph 5772 1888

Virtual women's health clinic now open

THE Victorian Government's virtual women's health clinic is now open to all Victorian women and girls of any age, offering free, expert medical advice, treatment and care for a range of women's health needs.

Led by specialist nurses, the clinic can provide medical advice remotely via telehealth, either online or on the phone, including endometriosis and pelvic pain care, menstrual health, cervical screening, menopause care, breast health care and abortion.

Women in regional and remote Victoria will benefit the most, with services like contraception and abortion traditionally harder to access due to distance from major towns.

Operated in partnership with community health organisation EACH, it will reduce the barriers and delays in accessing care, helping to avoid detrimental impacts on a woman's health, their quality of life and the ability to participate in school and employment.

The team of nurses will deliver an initial health assessment and some treatment, while patients can also be connected with a GP or get referred to a relevant health practitioner as close to home as possible.

In addition to treating immediate health needs, referrals can also be made to various mental health and wellbeing, alcohol and other drugs, and family violence community support services.

It comes as the government's mobile women's health clinic continues to travel across the

state delivering care to women in regional and remote communities.

Operated by BreastScreen Victoria, the van is making free healthcare more accessible for all women and girls, with a focus on improving access to care for Aboriginal women.

It supports a range of women's health needs, including sexual and reproductive health advice, clinical services and referrals for medical abortion, contraception, and referrals to other necessary specialists.

All services are delivered by an experienced nurse or nurse practitioner who work to build connections with women, their community and local health services.

Both the mobile and virtual clinics are part of the landmark \$153 million women's health package transforming the way women's healthcare is delivered in Victoria.

The virtual women's clinic is available Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, by calling 1300 003 224 or via a simple, secure online form on the EACH website, each.com.au/services/virtual-womens-health-clinic

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas said, "We're making it easier for all women and girls to get the specific care and advice they need no matter where they live, and we have made it free."

"There is no denying the gender health gap is real and it disproportionately affects women living in regional or remote areas of Victoria. Our new virtual women's clinic is helping to breakdown this and other barriers to care."

Australian Government lifts trade restrictions on US beef

THE Australian Government last week lifted trade restrictions on beef from cattle raised in Mexico or Canada, and processed in the United States, and subsequently exported to Australia.

Australia banned beef imports from the US in 2003 due to mad cow disease being discovered in American cattle.

The US has had access to the Australian market since 2019, provided it could verify its beef came from cattle born, raised, and slaughtered in the US. Cattle from Mexico and Canada were still considered a biosecurity risk.

The report released last week is the result of a long-standing, science-based review by the Australian Government into the biosecurity risks posed by cattle raised in Canada and Mexico, but processed in and exported from the US.

Minister for Agriculture Julie Collins outlined the Australian Government's position in a press conference, assuring industry that they have undertaken the standard, science-based review process to protect Australia's biosecurity.

"The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is satisfied the strengthened control measures put in place by the US effectively manage biosecurity risks," Ms Collins said.

There are whispers from political figures that the ban on

beef exports from the US was lifted to appease US President Donald Trump and help Australia's case for exemptions from US tariffs.

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) explained the impacts of the lifted restrictions.

"The impact of US and Canadian beef entering Australia is expected to be minimal. It is unlikely there will be an adverse effect on Australian cattle producers," MLA said.

"The potential for US beef to be imported into Australia in large volumes is minimal, given the high demand for beef in the US, the low US cattle herd, the strength of the Australian dollar, our competitive domestic supply, and most importantly Australians' strong preference for high-quality, tasty and nutritious Australian beef."

"More than 99 per cent of beef available in Australian supermarkets, pubs and restaurants is Australian beef. Australia produces approximately three times more beef than needed to feed our population."

Australia's relationship with the US is deep and multi-faceted, underpinned by the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement. Free and fair trade relies on the reciprocal recognition of trusted standards and processes between trading partners.



for all your commercial printing needs

Full colour and spot colour offset printing, colour photocopying, business cards, invoice books, flyers and more.

Alexandra Newspapers
Phone 5772 1002
43 Grant Street
Alexandra Vic. 3714
Email: reception@alexandranewspapers.com.au



Primary students plant trees on UT Creek



Students from grades three to six from Alexandra Primary School and students from grade three to four from St. Mary's Primary School got together on Monday, July 28 to plant trees near the tennis courts on UT creek in Alexandra on Tree Planting Day. -MP



St Mary's students had one side of the creek and Alexandra Primary students had the other side a little bit further up with the plan to meet up in the middle. -MP



A lot of teamwork was involved in the group planting exercise. -MP



Some of the planted trees from the morning's event. -MP



Alexandra primary students getting busy with the planting. -MP



A student checking a tree guard. -MP



One of the students getting ready to plant. -MP



It was great to see some enthusiastic planters. -MP



Students hard at work. -MP



Students from St Mary's ready to get their hands dirty. -MP



Many different trees and grass species were used in the planting exercise. -MP



Students took such great care with the plants as they were planting them. -S



The students weathered rainy conditions for the tree planting event. -MP



The participants were pleased with their planting efforts. -MP



Raincoats were the order of the day. -MP



The event connected students to nature. -MP

Chickens and dogs playing squash

by Kristelle Leary

Monday Competition
Australorps versus Leghorns
JORDAN versus Eric D: A one-sided match saw Jordan standing on top of the podium with an outstanding win. 100 to 40.

Laura versus Sally: Making her debut at the club, Laura did well to keep Sally running, but Sally was the more experienced and stronger player on the night. 71 to 44.
Chris versus Ben F: A good even contest with lots of good rallies. Ben opened his return to squash triumphantly with a win. 64 to 58.

Alexandra Golf Club says vale Kirky

by Dave Silverman

THE Alexandra Golf Club is sad to report the death of one of the club’s stalwarts. Alan Kirkpatrick, known to all simply as Kirky, died on July 18.

A Life Member since 2020, and a member for nearly 30 years, Kirky was someone who often seemed quite reserved, until he saw an opening for a quip, usually self-deprecating, and quietly delivered. He was a not a man to hog the limelight, but was just there, and he will be sorely missed.

Kirky was, like many of the members, a golf tragic, and loved being out on the course with his mates. He won the club’s Foursomes Championship three times, in 2000 with Frank McNair and in 2007 and 2015 with Doggy Bob.

Off the course he devoted a lot of his time as a volunteer, including stints as President in 2009, and Captain in 2015-16.

The club’s thoughts are with his family at this sad time.

On Friday, August 1, the club will remember Kirky a little more formally. There will be a nine-hole competition, 8.30 for 9am tee-off, all welcome, followed by a Memorial service at the clubhouse at 1pm. Those unable to attend may view service via vividstream.com.au/live/alan-kirkpatrick

For those of you who may be wondering, not a single competitive ball was struck at Alexandra last week. The club will have to hope for a let-up in the rain soon. On the bright side, the dam is filling up very nicely.

John versus Derrick: Derrick started strong to take the first game. John pulled up his socks and got down to business, taking the next three games with a good lead to take the match. 69 to 44.

Isa Browns versus Silkies

Tyler versus Lochlan: Tyler excelled in the first and last game, while Lochlan took the lead in the middle. With more points in the kitty, Tyler took the victory. 67 to 43.
Ethan versus Liane: There was no doubt in who this match. Ethan has gone up a level and will have to up his game to keep up. Liane showed Ethan no mercy and took home the victory. 68 to 32.

Jared versus Justin: A well-paced match. Justin started strong with Jared taking the back some point as the match went on. It was a closed match, but Justin stayed ahead to claim the win. 72 to 59.

Andrew versus Michael H: What a tight contest. It was point for point with both players attempting to gain the upper hand. Michael held the win as the match ended. 64 to 60.

Thursday Competition

Golden Retrievers versus Whippets

Matthew versus Ben H: The newbie against the young gun. Ben showcased in his first pennant match against Matthew. Getting his

eye in, Ben did well to keep Matthew on his toes but couldn’t overcome Matthew’s experience. 66 to 48.

Kristelle versus Beth: It was a one-sided match. Kristelle wiped the floor with Beth for an overwhelming win. 8 to 46.

Mick versus Travis: Another close match. Mick kept Travis running, but Travis had more tricks up his sleeve and came out on top. 58 to 51.

Daniel K versus Phil: Phil put up a good fight, but Daniel’s ability to read the ball put him in all the right places to win the match. 76 to 39.

Dachshunds versus Labradors

Randy versus Eric F: Playing in the pennant for the first time, Eric has something to learn but did a good job, against Randy. With a strong lead, Randy took the win. 98 to 37.

Blake versus Jess: A battle for victory. There were ups and downs throughout with neither opponent gaining the lead for long. As the buzzer rang, Jess won by a single point. 57 to 56.

Lucas versus Sam: Each player had a strong half. Sam won the first half while Lucas took the second. Lucas was better on the night, claiming the win. 61 to 57.

Daniel W versus Michael M: It was a tough slog for these two. Michael was rolling on the floor and Daniel was frustrated. Pulling through Daniel was crowned the victor. 57 to 54.

Sporting club grants announced

MEMBER for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes announced funding for sports clubs in the region through the *Sporting Club Grants Program*.

Alexandra District Netball Association will receive \$1000 to support with associated equipment costs.

Triangle Table Tennis will receive \$997.50 to purchase uniforms and table tennis racquets for an upcoming competition.

Yea FNC will receive \$1000 to purchase new equipment to increase female participation within the club.

The program provides funding for equipment and uniforms, taking the financial burden off clubs and support for volunteers and officials

to learn new skills and deliver new programs, helping local clubs grow.

Since 2014, The *Sporting Club Grants Program* has invested more than \$19.5 million in local communities to support thousands of sport and recreation clubs across the state.

The program is backed by the *Regional Community Sport Development Fund* which is delivering infrastructure upgrades and other programs including the *Regional Community Sport Infrastructure Fund* to help more regional Victorians to get active and be a part of their local sporting clubs.

The *Victorian Budget 2025/26* is also investing \$15 million to deliver the popular \$200 Get Active Kids Vouchers for another two years, helping more kids get involved in local sport and stay active.

Merton cricketers celebrate 2024-25 season achievements

MERTON cricketers celebrated the 2024-25 season last Friday night with their presentation night. The belated presentation was more like a pre-season get together with the players keen to go one better in the forthcoming season having lost to Yarrawonga in the semi-finals on a rain affected turf wicket.

Open club champion went to Captain Jai Lerch-McKinnon, his second for the club with co-captain Luke Berriman winning the under 21 club champion. Ross McKinnon won the open batting averages while son Jai won the batting aggregate most runs.

Henry Berriman won the open bowling most wickets and was presented with the match winning ball versus City Colts with 5/29. Noah Whittall won the bowling averages while Harry Craddock won the most catches in the field along with the most improved junior award.

Tyson Garlick won the captains award for his persistent efforts throughout the season. Daryl King was recognised for his work around the club from President Burnie Cummins. Luke Berriman received the score sheet from his maiden 114 in Merton’s victory over Delatite.

The Tom Jones Memorial Trophy went to Tony Sloan-Simpson for his commitment to the club in his first year after many years out of the game.

At the recent Wangaratta and District Cricket Association AGM the league saw the application of potentially two new clubs with the B grade competition growing to 13 sides in the forthcoming season starting in early October.

The Merton cricketers would like to thank their valued sponsors and extend their invitation to any new players or returning cricketers to the Merton Cricket Ground.

Member for Northern Victoria Jaclyn Symes said, “We are backing local clubs so more people in the community can get involved in the sports they love.”

For more information on the grants and a full list of recipients sport.vic.gov.au

Home game for Thornton/Eildon showed Warburton were favourites

by Scott Whitehead

Thornton/Eildon 0.0-2 was defeated by Warburton 10.13-73
IN Women’s football this week Thornton/Eildon hosted ladder leaders and premiership favourites Warburton in the second last home and away game for the season.

Despite Warburton’s dominance throughout the season, it was Thornton/Eildon who looked to be the stronger team early in the term scoring two behinds before Warburton found their feet to score the only goal for the quarter.

As the pressure built in the second quarter both teams found scoring a challenge with the slippery conditions making it hard to gather clean possessions. Thornton/Eildon’s midfield again worked tirelessly with Rose Kealy dominating the ruck contest giving first use of the football to the home team. Tahnee heard continued to show why she is the clearance queen while Jamee Cousens and Jade Mewburn made it difficult for Warburton with their fierce attack on the ball. At half time Warburton would lead by 19 points.

With the lead still within reach and the weather worsening coach Tash Hay asked her team to move the ball forward at any cost. Bechet Cousens at full back continued her consistent season with another dominating game that should see her again be selected in the team of the week. Mia Supple who was given the job of nullifying the leagues’ goal kicker continued

to make it difficult for her opponent keeping her scoreless at the three-quarter time break.

With Warburton’s lead now 27 points and the game still within reach the home team still had hope for a final quarter come-back. The hope however was soon erased with Warburton showing why they are flag favourites with a dominating seven goal two point quarter finishing off the game winning by 71 points.

Later that evening the club hosted LJD – dare to dance, who provided the guests with an introduction to Salsa. In a well-attended event, some participants showed fast footwork while some affirmed that they do indeed have two left feet.

Awards: Molesworth Hotel and General store: Xalia Stevenson; Café Alex: Abby Coolahan; Coaches \$20: Bechet Cousens; Snobs Creek Holiday Park: Tahnee Heard.

Next week Thornton/Eildon will again be at home hosting Wandin in the final game of the season. It will also be “Golden Ticket” round where we celebrate our sponsors, supporters, volunteers and those that inspire us to be part of football.

Training is every Monday and Thursday starting at 6pm with meals available on Thursday nights for \$15. If you are interested in being a player, supporter or a sponsor you can find details on the Thornton Eildon District Football and Netball Club’s Facebook page or by email tedfnc@outlook.com



ALEXANDRA AND DISTRICT DARTS ASSOCIATION
COMPETITION LADDER 2025 ROUND 13

POS	TEAM	PLAYED	WON	LOST	PTS
1	Buxton Hotel	13	12	1	48
2	Kill Bills	13	11	2	44
3	Panthers	13	11	2	44
4	Arrowsmiths	13	8	5	32
5	Alex Bowls Club	13	7	6	28
6	Bucky Pub	13	6	7	24
7	On Pointers	13	4	9	16
8	Beer, Bulls & Boobs	13	3	10	12
9	On Point 26ers	13	3	10	12
10	Dart Vaders	13	0	13	0

RESULTS
KILLBILLS def DARTVADERS 10-1
BUXTON HOTEL def ARROWSMITHS 7-4
PANTHERS def BULLS, BEERS & BOOBS 7-4
ON POINTERS def BUCKY PUB 7-4
ALEX BOWLS CLUB def ON POINT 26ERS 10-1

TONS
E. Collett – 101, J. Masters – 100, 100, 140, 117, 135, 100, B. Arnott – 140, 100, 140, 123, W. Nelson – 101, P. Dalley – 125, 125
G. Lund – 100, C. Parker – 100, 100, 120, G. George – 100, G. Gilmore – 114, 100, 120, 100, 100, C. Hutchings – 119, 133, 140
A. Hutt – 100, 125, 115, S. Ferrier – 125, A. Bull – 104, 117, A. Wyldie – 101, R. Bates – 116, 125, Z. Kilroy – 100, 140, 100, 130, 140,
140, 180, S. Kilroy – 140, 100, 140, 100, 140, R. Welsh – 100, 140, 100, 108, 100, 100, J. Billman – 100, 100, J. Smith – 100, 120
C. Turner – 100, 100, 140, M. Backstrom – 107, 100, M. Robinson – 140, 125, 100, 100, 100, 100, 140, 140, 180, 100, 140, 180
D. Withoos – 133, 133, 100, 133, 133, 133, 133, M. Jenkins – 100, 100, 100, M. Edwards – 100, 100, J. Farnan – 101, L. Ronalds –
100, S. Ritchie – 100, 100, 125, 135, 100, L. Turnbull – 140, 140, 100, 121, 140, 100, 100, R. Penny – 116, 100, 133, 104, R.
McCullum – 138

HIGHEST PEG – Craig Parker 94
180’S – Mark Robinson x2, Zane Kilroy

SPORT

Rare wet conditions at Rebel Park

by Wayne Miller

THE Alexandra Football Netball Club (AFNC) Rebels hosted Warburton/Millgrove in wet and heavy conditions unseen at Rebel Park for many years.

Football Reserves Alexandra 4.8-32 drew Warburton-Millgrove 5.2-32

A GAME where the Rebels dominated and led until Warburton/Millgrove goaled two minutes before the final siren to secure a thrilling draw.

The importance of scoreboard pressure was reinforced in the second half with the Rebels scoring eight points to Warburton/Millgrove's four goals.

Brendan Musgrove, Scott Heveren and Lachie Collard were prominent in defence, on ballers Brandon Kapakoulakis, Tom Halligan and Harry Correa constantly drove the Rebels into attack where Michael Coombs and Brent McDonald we're creating headaches for the Warby defence.

As well as drawing the match both teams remain in third and fourth place on 44 points on the ladder and are more than likely to meet again in the finals.

Awards: NP on the Run, Brandon Kapakoulakis; Future Fit Finance, Tom Halligan; Alexandra Hotel, Michael Coombs; Buxton Hotel, Harry Correa.

Seniors Alexandra 7.5-47 defeated by Warburton-Milgrove 10.9-69

THE Rebels suffered a major setback with key players Mitch Parker and Josh Edwards withdrawing from the selected side.

Despite being defeated by 22 points against the ladder leaders the Rebels put up a brave fight in a hard slog in heavy conditions.

Warburton/Millgrove scoring five goals three behinds to zero in the second quarter was the match.

If not for the four-quarter performance of Tom Boots the winning margin would have been greater.

One of the highlights of the match was the battle in the ruck between two of the league's best ruckman with the Rebels Lachlan Nankervis taking the honours.

Luke Spence for the second week in a row kicking three goals to be the Rebels leading forward.

Thomas Massey was a live wire all day with two goals, the heavy work of Ben Cooper, Sam Boots and Harry Prendergast put in big performances.

This week Alexandra play Yarra Junction and a percentage boosting win is essential to remain in finals contention.

Awards: Kerval Incentive, Tom Boots; O'Briens Real Estate Incentive, Sam Boots; Alexandra Hotel, Luke Spence; Buxton Hotel Award, Ben Cooper.

Under 18 Alexandra 7.11-53 defeated Warbuton-Millgrove 5.2-31

Awards: Bowens Incentive, Jake Marchetti; GWS Award, Shannon Galloway; AFNC Club Voucher, Luke Frith; Coaches Award, Hunter Vine.

Netball A Grade Alexandra 31 defeated by

Warburton-Millgrove 65

Incentive Award, Ellie Hedger; Corner Hotel Award, Claire Jungfer.

B Grade Alexandra 17 defeated by Warburton-Millgrove 52

Incentive Award, Maddy Northmore; Corner Hotel Award, Ash Frankcombe.

C Grade Alexandra 22 defeated by Warburton-Millgrove 35

Alexandra Hotel Award, Ava Krijt; Corner Hotel Award, Caeley Palmer.

D Grade Alexandra 10 defeated by Warburton-Millgrove 35

Alexandra Hotel Award, Ashlee Collett; Corner Hotel Award, Kelsey Purcell.

Under 17 Alexandra 23 defeated Warburton-Millgrove 19

Koala Cherries Award, Asher Kaiser; AFNC Club Voucher, Abby Miljkovic.

At half time of the senior's match Scott Ferrier once again organised his annual Fight MND fundraiser, and despite the freezing conditions Tommy Kendall, Sam Weisse, Ashleigh Peers, Mali Collins, and Scott Heveren all took the plunge to help raise money towards this fantastic cause. The club says thank you to everyone who donated, supported or helped spread the word.

This coming Saturday, the Rebels are back on home turf as they take on Yarra Junction in what promises to be an exciting clash. It's also the club's annual Ladies Day, a highlight on the social calendar.

Tickets for the Ladies Day function are available now via TryBooking or by contacting the club directly. Don't miss out on a great day of footy and celebration.



The people who dunked themselves in the freezing cold water to fight against MND. Pictured are Ash Peers, Himali Collins, Scott Heveren, Scott Ferrier and Sam Weisse. Absent from the picture is Tom Kendall. -S



Sam Boots sending a handball. -S



Reserves player Sam Kidd fighting in the mud.



Reserves player Tom Halligan fighting the competition to send a handball. -S



Ryan Lucas ignoring the mud and kicking the footy. -S



A Grade player Caitlan Haggis in the wet weather. -S



B Grade player Maddy Northmore moving with the ball. -S



Ashton Cowell sending a tackle on the opposition. -S



Luke Frith collecting the ball on the way past for the Alexandra under 18 side. -S

SPORT

Alexandra junior footballers and netballers take on Broadford

by Alexandra Football Netball Club

THE Alexandra Football Netball Club (AFNC) junior teams were on the move once again, travelling to Broadford for a big day of sport. All six netball teams, along with the under nine, 10 and 12 footballers, took on Broadford in a series of great matches. The under 14 footballers were also in action, facing off against Tatura, also at Broadford.

Football
Under nine

Awards: Darcy S, Jude NM, Cohen P and Angus H.



Under 12 award winner Hudson Brooks. -S

Under 10

Awards: Harvey H, Nate C, Zander W and Lewis H.

Under 12
Broadford 15.15-105 defeated
Alexandra 0.1-1

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Vander Kaiser; Reddrops FoodWorks, Logan Kerr; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Jack Kidd; Coaches Award, Bodhi McKenzie.

Under 14
Tatura 0.1-1 defeated by
Alexandra 14.21-105

Awards: Essence Coffee Lounge, Jaidyn Dimech; Reddrops FoodWorks, Dusty

Fitzpatrick; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Xahlia Stevenson; Coaches Award, Jarvi Miljkovic.

Netball
Under 11 Development

Awards: Josie, Eva and Reegan.

Under 11
Broadford 12 defeated Alexandra Red 8

Awards: AFNC Canteen Voucher, Charlotte Pullen; Reddrops FoodWorks, Matilda Woehl.

Under 13
Broadford 31 defeated Alexandra Red 26

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Koa Parker; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Lainey Martyn.

St Marys Yellow 27 defeated
Alexandra Black 15

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Asha Vine; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Summer Edwards; Coaches Award, Liesse Hogan.

Under 15
Broadford 19 defeated by
Alexandra Red 40

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Indi Hoornwegl; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Phoebe Kidd.

Alexandra Black 14 defeated
by St Marys Yellow 45

Awards: Reddrops FoodWorks, Ella Palmer; Alexandra Bakery and Café, Lily Barkley.



Under 11 award winners Matilda Woehl and Charlotte Pullen. -S



Under 10 award winner Benji Cavill. -S



Under nine award winner Patty McQuillian. -S



Under 12 award winners for Alexandra Football Netball Club. -S



Under nine and under 10 award winners. -S



The under 11 netball teams. -S

Daniel Kriss crowned Victorian Squash Champion

DANIEL Kriss, local business owner of Country Tech in Alexandra, recently competed in two state squash championships and claimed victory in both.

The first competition was held in Geelong at the Leisuretime Squash Centre from July 10 to 13 and saw players from all over Victoria attend. Having reached the grand final, Daniel was down two games to zero, but managed to turn the match around and overcome his opponent three games to two and win the title.

The following weekend, July 16 to 20, saw the Victorian Open PSA Squash Competition held at Mulgrave Country Club. This particular championship is the most significant on the state calendar and showcases the best squash players in the state.

Daniel comfortably made it through to the semi-finals but faced a great challenger at this point. After a gruelling five set match, Daniel won the semi-final by two points. Two hours later, the grand final was played and Daniel was crowned the Victorian Open Squash winner for 2025 in division four.

This is a proud achievement for both Daniel, the Alexandra Squash Club and the Murrindindi Shire community.



Some great squash was played at the Victorian Squash Tournaments. -S

Outer East Football and Netball League Ladders

Football – Reserves			Netball – A Grade		
	Percentage	Wins		Percentage	Wins
Seville	488.42	13	Warburton Millgrove	214.21	12
Pakenham	393.27	12	Seville	206.21	13
Warburton Millgrove	178.90	8	Pakenham	234.93	11
Alexandra	130.33	8	Yarra Glen	128.91	9
Belgrave	198.55	8	Yarra Junction	87.50	6
Yea	98.20	5	Alexandra	70.13	4
Powelltown	28.53	3	Belgrave	66.12	4
Yarra Glen	23.60	1	Powelltown	33.91	1
Yarra Junction	15.80	1	Yea	52.55	0
Football – Seniors			Netball – B Grade		
Warburton Millgrove	239.49	11	Seville	324.01	14
Pakenham	227.71	11	Pakenham	272.33	12
Seville	192.41	11	Warburton Millgrove	159.44	10
Alexandra	119.52	7	Yarra Glen	116.40	9
Belgrave	108.20	8	Belgrave	83.06	6
Yarra Glen	94.51	6	Yarra Junction	64.15	5
Yea	86.13	3	Yea	57.28	2
Powelltown	40.70	2	Alexandra	47.91	2
Yarra Junction	24.57	0	Powelltown	40.61	0
Football – Senior Women			Netball – C Grade		
Warburton-Wesburn	100.00	13	Seville	301.62	14
Wandin	76.92	10	Pakenham	222.67	12
Emerald	57.69	7	Warburton Millgrove	180.07	10
Yea	53.84	7	Yarra Glen	96.13	7
Thornton Eildon	37.50	4	Belgrave	77.99	6
Officer	15.38	2	Yarra Junction	78.32	5
Seville	7.69	1	Alexandra	77.54	4
Netball – 17 and under			Yea	43.83	1
Seville	454.33	12	Powelltown	32.97	0
Pakenham Lions Gold	232.56	10	Netball – D Grade		
Warburton Millgrove	76.08	5	Seville	360.12	13
Alexandra	49.10	4	Pakenham	325.81	12
Pakenham Lions Maroon	55.11	3	Warburton Millgrove	210.87	11
Powelltown	49.75	3	Yarra Glen	82.80	5
Football – Under 18			Alexandra	65.18	5
Pakenham	1057.75	12	Belgrave	67.84	5
Seville	329.08	10	Yea	51.41	4
Warburton Millgrove	42.51	5	Yarra Junction	49.77	2
Alexandra	42.87	5	Powelltown	31.19	0
Yarra Glen	42.49	3			
Yea	35.33	2			



Daniel looking proud as punch with his wife Jessica. -S

Daniel Kriss with his Victorian Squash Championship trophy alongside former number one for Australia, Sarah Fitzgerald. -S